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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19232 FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1996 • NISSAN 2, 5756 • THU AL-QADAH 3, 1416 NIS 6.00 (EILAT NIS 5.10)



A disguised Hizbullah spokesman points to a map yesterday while describing Wednesday's suicide attack in the security zone. (Reuters)

Nasrallah vows to continue attacks

HIZBULLAH leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah declared yesterday that attacks against the IDF and South Lebanese Army would continue, despite Israel's threats to retaliate.

He also warned that Hizbullah would respond with Katyusha rockets on the Galilee if the IDF shelled villages north of the security zone and harmed residents.

"The only way for the enemy to avoid harm to its settlements is not to harm our civilians," said Nasrallah.

Interior Minister Ehud Barak, Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, and OC Northern Command Amiram Levine were among the thousands to attend Capt. Salah Zeidan's funeral yesterday at the Beit Jann Military Cemetery. Zeidan was killed on Wednesday by a Hizbullah suicide bomber.

Col. K., who had been in the caravan's first jeep, eulogized Zeidan, saying, "He was constantly concerned that his soldiers received everything - newspapers, food. He would devotedly check the trucks, and after they left he waited to see if everything was OK and the soldiers weren't missing anything."

Nasrallah, in a press conference in Lebanon, revealed that the suicide bomber, Ali Mousis Ashmar, 20, came from Adeisseh

DAVID RUDGE

village, near Taibeh, inside the security zone.

He said Ashmar, whose video-recorded message before killing himself was screened by Nasrallah yesterday, had been recruited into the ranks of the suicide battalion some eight months ago.

Nasrallah said the suicide bomb attack proved the "many advances Hizbullah has made in monitoring the enemy's movements and collecting intelligence."

"Of course we are improving. Does [Prime Minister Shimon] Peres think we are primitives and Third World beings?" said Nasrallah.

He maintained that the lone suicide bomber attack was the first of its kind in the security zone. "This will force the Zionist enemy to adopt complicated and cumbersome countermeasures to protect their movements," said Nasrallah.

Nasrallah tried to dissociate the latest attack from the international anti-terror summit in Sharm e-Sheikh, saying Hizbullah had been fighting the "Zionist occupation of Lebanon" since 1982.

He also maintained that Hizbullah acted on its own and did not receive instructions from Teheran or Syria to either escalate or restrain its activities.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres

said yesterday that the IDF will do "everything necessary, on the basis of operational considerations," in response to the recent wave of Hizbullah attacks in south Lebanon.

"What is done in the North will be done on the basis of operational considerations, and not media considerations," Peres told reporters, at a ceremony at Border Police headquarters in Lod marking the arrival of 42 new jeeps.

Barak said last night that appeals by the US for restraint evidently had no effect on Hizbullah, and only the IDF would decide how best to respond, Israeli Radio reported.

For the first time, the Iranian Embassy in Beirut also issued a statement yesterday warning Israel against any action against the embassy or Iranian interests in Lebanon.

"The embassy of the Iranian Republic of Iran holds the Zionist entity and its American protectors responsible in advance for any aggression against it or any other [Iranian] institution in Lebanon or anywhere else in the world," the statement said.

The announcement was seen as an attempt by the Iranians to head off accusations by Israel of Iranian involvement in the latest wave of Hizbullah attacks in south Lebanon, in which six IDF soldiers have been killed and

(Continued on Page 20)

3 held in largest-ever seizure of smuggled cocaine

RAINE MARCUS

TEL AVIV detectives, together with customs and VAT investigators, yesterday seized the "biggest amount of cocaine" ever smuggled into the country, arresting three suspects.

Some 43 kilograms of pure cocaine, valued at \$3 million, arrived at Haifa Port from Holland last Wednesday. But the alleged smugglers, in their forties and from the center of the country, only picked up the container early yesterday.

Since it arrived, the container was under surveillance by police and customs officials, who used special equipment to detect the

(Continued on Page 20)

Shetreet: Non-Orthodox marriages, conversions are next

RELIGIOUS Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet yesterday utilized a ceremony at which he distributed licenses to alternative burial societies to announce plans to circumvent the Chief Rabbinate regarding conversions.

"Just as we [are to] have alternative burial, we will also have alternative marriage and conversion," said Shetreet.

In the past, he has proposed financing trips abroad for those who are barred from marrying here. Yesterday, he revealed he would utilize rabbinical courts abroad to facilitate conversion.

The alternative conversion, like the alternative burial, would largely serve the many immigrants from the former Soviet Union whose Jewish lineage is in question. During the past year, several burials were postponed for days, because Jewish burial societies would not conduct them.

Shetreet explained that, accord-

HAIM SHAPIRO

ing to his plan, potential converts would undergo the conversion ceremony here. Then, he said, the conversion documents would be sent abroad to be validated. He did not say if the rabbinical courts abroad would be Orthodox.

According to the Law of Return, any conversion carried out by a Jewish community abroad is valid, even though rabbinical courts in Israel do not recognize Conservative and Reform conversions for purposes of marriage.

The High Court of Justice recently appeared to accord limited recognition to a Reform conversion carried out in Israel, but the Interior Ministry has yet to act upon it.

At yesterday's ceremony, Shetreet issued licenses to three kibbutzim - Kfar Masaryk, Givat Haim, and Netiv Halamed-Heb-

and three voluntary organizations. However, he withheld the license of a fourth organization, which was to serve the Tel Aviv area, due to a legal dispute.

Menaha Nehoma, which has led the struggle for alternative burial and which received licenses for the Jerusalem, Haifa, and Beersheba areas, went to court yesterday in an effort to withhold a license from Mishkenot Olam in Tel Aviv.

Oded Iron, head of Menu Nehoma in Jerusalem, said it appeared that Mishkenot Olam is an Orthodox group. He said he doubts whether the group could, in good conscience, provide alternative burial.

Moshe Leibovitch, head of Mishkenot Olam, said his group is concerned with providing universal burial services, including traditional Jewish burial and alternative Jewish burial, as well as the burial of non-Jews.

Soldier recalls encounter with bomber

STAFF Sgt. Assi Danan described yesterday how he confronted the suicide bomber who buried himself at an IDF patrol inside the security zone, blowing himself up and killing Golani Brigade Capt. Salah Zeidan.

Danan was in the jeep with the driver and the commander of the region, Col. K., when they saw a man standing by the road junction they were passing en route from Taibeh to the border crossing at Metulla.

"The man aroused our suspicion because he was walking so slowly. The driver received in-

DAVID RUDGE

structions from the brigade commander to stop the vehicle," said Danan.

"I looked out the rear window of the jeep and saw the man coming towards the jeep. I cocked my gun, on the orders of the commander, in the jeep and he ordered the man to stop," said Danan.

"The man didn't respond to the call and made movements

with his hands as if to say everything was okay. It seemed very suspicious to me and I got out of the vehicle and fired a shot in the air.

"When I shot, the terrorist blew himself up. There was a big mushroom of smoke and fire coming toward me and I jumped from the vehicle and took cover. For a while we lost eye contact with the commander, but when the smoke cleared, we heard his

(Continued on Page 20)

Einstein's manuscript on the Theory of Relativity donated to Israel Museum

ALBERT Einstein's earliest manuscript on the Theory of Relativity has been donated to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem by the Jacob Safra Foundation.

The autographed manuscript was sold privately, for an undisclosed sum, by Sotheby's auction house in New York. Sotheby's described it as one of the most important extant scientific manuscripts, the museum spokesman said.

The manuscript, which dates to 1912, consists of 72 pages, on which Einstein made several corrections. Since Einstein is known to have destroyed most of his manuscripts, the document is extremely rare, the spokesman said. It is Einstein's longest and most comprehensive exposition on his relativity theory - E=mc², meaning energy equals mass times the speed of light squared.

The document came to light in 1987 when a private owner sold it for \$1.2 million to an anonymous buyer. It was again offered for sale last Saturday by Sotheby's in New York, and bids went as high as \$3.3m., but failed to meet the owner's \$4m. minimum. It was then put on block.

"This is totally unexpected, but it is the greatest gift that any institution could get," ex-Jerusa-

BATSHEVA TSUR

lem mayor Teddy Kolek, chairman of the museum's board, said yesterday.

Museum director Martin Weyl described the working manuscript as "a precious and historic

document that will be a most welcome and proud addition to our museum collection."

The Hebrew University, which owns Einstein's personal archives, has a shorter version of the manuscript on relativity, which is dated 1916.

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Peres, Barak, Rabin meet to discuss campaign

Missing People 03-613 27 33

IDF destroys two more homes

THE IDF destroyed the homes of two suicide bombers' families yesterday, bringing to six the number of homes demolished as a deterrent to further terror attacks.

Before dawn Thursday, troops moved into Kafar Karyut, about 30 kilometers south of Nablus. A military bulldozer plowed through the home of Labib Anwar Azem, the suicide bomber who blew himself up on bus No. 20 in Ramat Gan last July, killing six people and wounding 31.

In the village of Dhahiriya, a bulldozer razed the house belonging to Sufian Jabarin's family. Jabarin carried out the suicide attack on the No. 26 bus in

Jerusalem on August 21, which killed four people and wounded more than 100.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres reiterated yesterday that Israel would not let Islamic terrorism torpedo the peace process.

"The hopes of the people who send them [the bombers] is to place a bomb under the peace process. They will not explode the peace process," Peres said.

Earlier this week, Peres said he planned to expel Hamas activists. Up to a dozen, including family members of suicide bombers, are likely to be deported.

Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr said yesterday the steps taken against the families of suicide

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

bombers, who were lured by promises of martyrdom, were likely to deter potential suicide bombers in the future.

"It can't be that a man who blows up a bus believing he will go to heaven doesn't know that his family will not just set up a mourner's tent and continue living its life as normal," Orr said on Army Radio.

"I know from credible sources that it will be a deterrent if [a suicide bomber] knew that some of his family will be deported, their home destroyed, and they will cease living normal lives after he decides to go to heaven," Orr

said.

Orr said the harsh measures would be worthwhile even if they prevent just one suicide bombing.

Also yesterday, the army arrested eight men from Judea and Samaria suspected of involvement in Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The raids took place in villages near Nablus, Hebron, Jenin, and Ramallah. All of the men were handed over to security forces for interrogation, the IDF said.

In the past week the IDF arrested over 155 suspected Islamic militants.

Meanwhile, in Gaza City, hundreds of Palestinian police raided

a building yesterday after receiving a tip that an Islamic militant suspected of masterminding four recent suicide bombings was hiding there, Palestinian sources told AP.

Several Hamas members were arrested in the 1 a.m. raid, but not the most wanted Mohammed Diif, suspected head of Izzadin Kassem, Hamas's armed wing. Peres has conditioned any future redeployment of troops in the West Bank on Diif's arrest.

Palestinian Police sources said the police were fired upon when they raided the building and they returned fire. Three policemen were injured in the shootout, witnesses said.

Bereaved mark first Lebanon suicide attack

DAVID RUDGE

THE bereaved families sat under a canopy in Metulla yesterday as wreaths were laid at the base of the memorial for the 12 soldiers killed in the first suicide bombing attack - 11 years ago in the then newly formed security zone.

The troops from the IDF Ordnance Corps died in the explosion of a Hizbullah suicide car bomb alongside their Safari truck, just by the border fence, near Metulla. Fifteen soldiers were wounded.

The attack occurred just a few months after the IDF had withdrawn from the rest of Lebanon, after the three-year "Peace for Galilee" operation, to what is now the security zone. It was the first suicide attack in the zone, following similar operations by Hizbullah fanatics in other parts of Lebanon, including the Tyre disaster.

Hizbullah has not changed its tactics, only varied them, using better intelligence and more modern and sophisticated devices. The war against the extremist Iranian-backed organization continues.

Ibrahim Hatib, a resident of the Druse village of Beit Jam and father of one of the soldiers killed in the Safari, spoke on behalf of the bereaved families. He noted that the village, which has lost 49 of its sons in Israel's wars, is once again in mourning for another: Capt. Salah Zeidan, 23, who was killed by a Hizbullah suicide bomber in the security zone on Wednesday.

"We have families who have lost their only son, and two of

their sons, and families which have lost their father and a son, leaving behind them two widows in the same family," said Hatib.

Northern Command chief of staff Brig-Gen. Benny Lidor said he could not promise that Zeidan would be the last fatality in southern Lebanon.

"We are engaged in a hard, complex war against people who don't intend to come back," said Lidor. "This war requires careful calculations, responsibility, surprise, and especially staying power," he said.

Danny, one of the soldiers wounded in the Safari attack, was among those who participated in the service. He spent two months in Haifa's Rambam Hospital receiving treatment for his injuries and a further three months convalescing.

He said it is hard to visit Metulla while the same war is still raging across the border. "This is a lovely place to visit. I'm looking forward to the day I can do it in a time of peace," said Danny, a resident of Beerseba.

Avi, also wounded in the Safari attack, said he "would like to think that, nevertheless, things will get better and the attacks will come to an end. I would tell the soldiers serving here today to carry on and not to despair. We have to trust in the government and all that is being done."

"I think, however, that the time has come to end our restraint and begin to act. We restrain ourselves and we get hit. We must continue to act - and more forcefully."

Arafat: I have proof of Israeli, Palestinian extremists cooperating

CAIRO (Reuters) - Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, in an interview published yesterday, produced what he said was new evidence of cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian groups opposed to the Middle East peace process.

Arafat told the Egyptian government newspaper Al-Ahram that the Palestinian authorities had confiscated from Palestinian groups sophisticated missiles available only through Israel.

"These weapons could be obtained only from high authorities with great influence on the Israeli side," he said.

"We have also come across high explosives the like of which you cannot find in Arab countries. It is hexogen and other highly effective explosive materials," he added.

Security sources in Israel dismissed the latest allegation, one calling it "an attempt by Arafat to divert

public opinion from the fact he is not doing enough to catch the terrorists of Hamas."

Arafat said the confiscated missiles included LAW (light anti-tank weapon) systems.

"These things are found only in training centers, not with troops. The cooperation has been proved in many domains and the Israeli government announced a few days ago it had found two Jewish girls in Jerusalem cooperating with Hamas," he said.

"Then there's the Israeli spy network which was uncovered in Syria in recent days and which shows that these [Palestinian dissident] organizations have been penetrated. Is all this a coincidence?" Arafat asked.

Palestinian police in Bethlehem on Wednesday put on display three collaborators who said Israel's General Security Service had urged them to attack Israelis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Force 17 commander en route to Gaza
Col. Mohammed Natour, the head of the PLO's Force 17 commando and regarded as one of the most notorious terrorists who ever operated against Israel, left Amman on Wednesday for Cairo intending to cross into Gaza at Rafah, Palestinian security sources said. Natour, better known as Abu Tayeb, was in charge of Yasser Arafat's personal security for many years and is expected to be appointed to a senior security position.

Man killed, 20 children hurt on roads
A Tamra village man was killed yesterday when he lost control of the commercial vehicle he was driving and hit two trees near the entrance to the village. In another accident, 20 children were lightly injured in the afternoon near Ashdod when their minibus overturned after being hit from behind by a truck while stopped for a red light. They were taken to Ashkelon's Barzilai Hospital.

Amir verdict due on Wednesday
Tel Aviv District Court Judges Edmond Levy, Saviona Rotlevy, and Oded Mudrich will issue their verdict this coming Wednesday against Yigal Amir, who is accused of the premeditated murder of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Baram hospitalized after feeling weak
Tourism Minister Uzi Baram was hospitalized yesterday at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital after complaining of weakness. Baram was admitted to the cardiology department and will remain under observation for 48 hours, the hospital spokeswoman said yesterday.

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Arafat committed to changing Charter

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is committed to amending the PNC Charter by May 7, despite seeing the closure as a violation of Israel's commitments, a spokesman for Arafat said yesterday.

Nabil Abourdenah said an adviser of Arafat's, Khalid Salam, was not speaking for the chairman when he stated on Wednesday that the Palestinian National Council will not convene to amend the charter until the closure is lifted.

Abourdenah said "The PNC will definitely meet in April" to discuss amending the charter.

Redeemer Church, Old City Jerusalem
This March 28, 1996 at 6:00 p.m. Choir of Abingdon Church, Palestine, Germany. Words by H. Schütz, D. Bartsch, H. Parvill, P. Eben, Elisabeth Kahlert - Organ. There will be a service at Jaffa Gate in front of the World Information Office in the year to the church.

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 112246 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 502023 won a car.

Tickets numbered 273304, 208318, 571639, 075704, 170942, 326403, 001825 and 657412 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 48309, 38178, 01447, 24294, 98291, 32162, 64917, 62072, 88719, 43310, 15771, 78003, 28743, 55956, 73147, 75182, 54790, 53898 and 50334 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 958, 668, 194, 096, and 365 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 02, 58, 78, 64 and 03 won NIS 24. Tickets ending in 2 and 5 won NIS 8.

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spades, the nine of hearts, the king of diamonds and the ace of clubs.

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Begin repeats claim of PA-Hamas terror accord

LIAT COLLINS

THE Palestinian Authority has not outlawed Hamas despite its statements to Israel, MK Ze'ev Begin (Likud) said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference in Jerusalem, Begin repeated his claim that Hamas and the Palestinian Authority have reached an agreement allowing Hamas to carry out attacks on Israelis, as long as they are not traceable to areas under the authority's control.

Begin said there was no sign that the Palestinian Authority had banned Hamas, since nothing had been published in the Arab press and no written warnings had been distributed. The Palestinian Authority had only promised "to continue to examine" possible steps including outlawing the terror groups, Begin said.

He said it makes no difference whether there is only an understanding or a written agreement between the two organizations, just as Israel is demanding

Intelligence. Amidror's interpretations have been criticized by Peres and the chief of staff. According to Begin, Amidror told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on March 12: "Arafat believed that the genie would remain in the bottle as long as it suits the interests of the Palestinian Authority. The understanding reached in Cairo in December 1995 between his representative and the representative of Hamas — which although it did not turn into an official agreement has dictated the behavior in practice of both the Hamas and the Palestinian Authority since then — symbolizes this more than anything."

Begin also quoted prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who told the Knesset in April that any understanding or de facto agreement between the PLO and Hamas on the possibility of the continuation of terror would prevent the implementation of the Oslo Accords.

Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting in January, a month before the latest terror wave, in which Begin told Peres of the agreement only to be told by the latter: "I don't know of any such agreement. And I don't care."

Asked why he repeatedly made the claim of an agreement despite the fact that senior military officials and cabinet ministers have denied it, Begin used the example of Lt. Binyamin Siman-Itov, who warned of the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War in 1973, when Military Intelligence was unprepared for it. "It is not the rank that counts. In order to reach intelligent conclusions, you do not always need Military Intelligence."

He also quoted previously unpublished sections of a report by Brig-Gen Ya'acov Amidror, head of research in Military



Prime Minister Shimon Peres takes the wheel of one of 42 new jeeps received yesterday by the Border Police at a ceremony at its Lod headquarters. Also attending were Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal, OC Border Police Cmdr. Yisrael Sadan, and Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz. (Reuters)

Third Way beset by internal wrangling

LIAT COLLINS

THE Third Way got off on the wrong foot yesterday, with internal wrangling over its list of Knesset candidates. MK Emanuel Zissman yesterday demanded to see all the documents relating to Wednesday's party elections to check the exact results and how they were reached.

Yehuda Harel, elected to the No. 2 position, is threatening to quit over the final composition of the list he will have to work with. Other candidates accused party leader Avigdor Kahalani and Harel of manipulating the results.

The ballot points were checked and recalculated several times before the party's council's final results showed it had rejected the secret list of recommended members prepared by the voting committee, and granted the first three slots after Kahalani to Harel, Zissman and party director Uzi Keren.

Zissman and Keren had been

recommended for non-realistic slots by the voting committee. Eli Malka, who this week resigned his position as the head of the Golan Heights Settlements Council, was moved from third place on the recommended list to seventh slot on the final version.

The bad feeling which erupted with the news of the secret list and peaked when the final results were published could cause the downfall of the party, which is struggling to base its image on clean politics and a united front to attract potential voters deterred by the infighting in Labor and the joint Likud-Tsomet-Gesher list.

The greatest tension could be felt between Harel and Zissman and Zissman and Kahalani. Both Harel and Zissman are founder members of The Third Way who had fought for the No. 2 slot, con-

sidered up to now to be a safe spot. Zissman is asking to check the results to see whether he did not actually win more points than Harel — the published difference was three points between them. Zissman burned his bridges with Labor when he moved over to The Third Way and its Knesset faction.

Kahalani yesterday described the elections as "democratic" and said the condemnation of the results could be attributed to disappointment by candidates who failed to attain good positions.

Liba'i: Arafat, Hamas never signed deal

EVELYN GORDON

ARMY intelligence never told the cabinet that the PLO and Hamas signed an agreement in Cairo last December, Justice Minister David Liba'i said yesterday in response to charges by MK Ze'ev Begin (Likud) that there is such an agreement.

In a press statement, Liba'i said that according to an intelligence briefing given to the security cabinet, the PLO had been negotiating with Hamas's military wing on an agreement to stop terror against Israel entirely.

When the two groups met to sign a draft of

this agreement in Cairo on December 22, however, Hamas wanted to introduce two changes, Liba'i said: it wanted to be permitted to conduct attacks from areas not controlled by the Palestinian Authority and it wanted the right to respond to "Israeli aggression" in any way it saw fit. When the PLO refused to agree to these changes, the deal fell apart, Liba'i said.

Only after the negotiations had reached a

dead end did Hamas decide to continue committing attacks once Ramadan ended, Liba'i continued.

"MK Benny Begin erred if he thought any agreement was signed in Cairo between the PA and Hamas or any other Islamic movement," Liba'i said.

Liba'i added that Begin should be allowed to see the protocols of the army's report to the security cabinet. This, he said, would be better than having him try to publicize classified documents in order to prove his point.

Gesher decides to let c'tee pick candidates

SARAH HONG

DAVID Levy's Gesher Party rejected a proposal last night that he single-handedly choose which candidates the party will insert into the Likud Knesset list.

According to Levy's deal with the Likud, Gesher will receive seven safe slots on the Likud list. Levy is to be No. 2, between Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu and Tsomet's Rafael Eitan.

The voting will be done by an assembly of 200 "Gesher founders." This assembly itself was not elected by anyone, but appointed by Levy, as the new party lacks any elected forums.

Prior to his deal with the Likud, Levy had boasted that his new party would "teach all others a lesson in democracy. Our candidates would be chosen in the fairest and most impartial method conceivable."

In the specified slot system, if the candidate failed to win the particular slot he had chosen, he would have been off the list entirely. That would have opened the door for a bloc of candidates to set up a deal and have all of their supporters vote for a single list.

Levy indicated that he is not averse to the idea, as it would spare Gesher the infighting resulting from a vote.

MK David Magen, then Levy's brother Maxim, former ambassador to France Yehuda Lankri, former Likud MK Michael Kleiner, and finally Levy side-kicks Moti Mishani and Ya'acov Bardugo are expected to follow Levy on the list.

Soldiers can't vote in primaries

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE IDF has barred soldiers from voting in the Meretz, Labor, and Likud party primaries next week because procedures for them to cast ballots anonymously were not arranged.

The IDF said that it had been prepared to allow those soldiers registered with political parties to vote in their primaries if they could do so anonymously.

"Until now, none of the parties has provided any procedure for this," an IDF statement said.

Currently, any soldier who asks for leave to vote next week risks unveiling his or her political leanings — something the army wants to avoid — since each party is holding its primaries on a separate day.

Likud spokeswoman Ronit Eckstein said the Likud understood the problem and MK Silvan Shalom had initiated a bill to hold all the primaries on the same day, but it had been delayed.

Yoram Dori, Labor spokesman, called on the IDF to allow the soldiers to vote anyway.

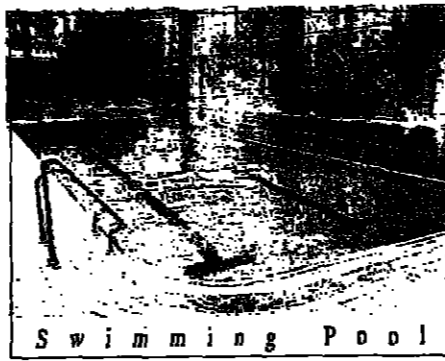
"We are very sorry that the technicalities could not be worked out and we are aware of the fact that the army does not want its troops' political identities to be revealed. Nevertheless, we still call on the army to allow the soldiers to vote," he said.



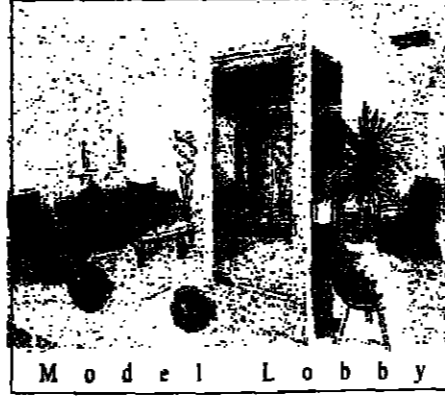
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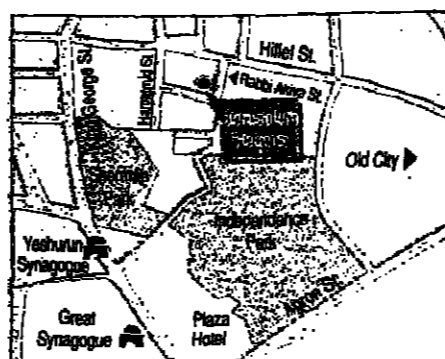
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Hamas activists form party in Gaza

Hamas activists yesterday formed an Islamic political party in self-ruled Gaza to oppose the Israel-PLO peace accords.

Palestinian sources said the Islamic National Salvation Party (INSP), which did not adopt armed resistance in its platform, could be the main legal opposition group to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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Words to a wimp

AHARON MEGGED

A few words to my leftist friends:

After all the bad years of our ruling the territories, our accords with the Palestinians were and are an imperative, dictated by reality. They are inexorable. There is no way back.

You, the initiators of this move, naturally support it. And that's fine. But please, hold the serenades!

For 20 years I have been witness to the shameful sight of your singing, night after night, serenades beneath the window of the Palestinian sweetheart. But not only does she refuse to come out onto the balcony to lower a rope so you can climb up; not only does she decline to send as much as a kind smile your way; she sits there, ensconced in her room, mocking you.

As an Israeli Jew, I am ashamed. There is no response to your overtures of love. None. During the years of occupation, with all their injustices and travails, this may have been understandable. But nothing has changed since Yitzhak Rabin extended his hand - true, most reluctantly - to Yasser Arafat on the White House lawn, or since we began withdrawing from the Palestinian population centers.

For nearly 30 years you have been singing songs of peace from every possible platform. Our finest singers and instrumentalists have been rendering peace with supreme devotion, with heart-warming, inspiring fervor.

There's no counting the number of mass peace rallies you convoked, the spontaneous peace demonstrations you organized, where "pure-dreaming youth... spun hopes of the Day-to-Come," many holding the Israeli flag in one hand and the PLO flag in the other, and with tear-filled eyes sang songs of love and peace to our brethren in Nablus, Gaza and Hebron.

And there were thousands of candles kindled in the plazas, twinkling in the dark - long before the memorial candles after Rabin's murder - and all the tiny flickering lights softly whispered, "Peace. Peace. International brotherhood and peace. Make love, not war."

And there were peace plays in the theaters. And guilt-drenched peace films, and endless breast beating in the cinematheques. And thousands of outdoor signs and posters, and numberless car stickers all calling for "Peace, peace unto all, the near and far."

And the pathetic appeals to the brothers beyond the Green Line:

Come, let's meet, let's talk peace and love, for surely you know how much we love you, are all for you, always at your side, ready to grant your every wish... because you are right and we are treacherous and guilty. Yes, our hearts go out to you - go out so much that when infidels rocks and knives come to mind, we recall those lines from Natan Alterman's poem, *Joy of the Poor*: "Like a bird winging to its nest/Your heart goes out to the knife..."

AND WHAT of the other side? Not during the more than two decades of occupation and oppression, but the past two years: Have you heard songs of fraternity and peace addressing the Israeli nation in Arabic?

Have you seen peace-proclaiming signs on Nablus rooftops, on Ramallah balconies?

When the one you are serenading mocks you, why keep on singing of love?

Have you seen a single peace sticker on a car bearing the territories' blue license plates?

Has one single Palestinian raised the Israeli flag alongside the Palestine flag as a sign of friendship between our two nations, as you have done in your peace demonstrations?

Yes, we have seen Israeli flags in Tulkarm and Ramallah - carried to the town square for burning.

SO HOLD the serenades. Please. Peace is welcome; no question. Because our aim is to live with the Arabs of this land, the indigenous Arabs, side by side, without war, without bloodshed.

And we have always lived in hope for peace, from when the Prophets said "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation" through Ya'acov Rothblit's peace song.

But to sing love songs to one who turns you away, to one in whom your serenading evokes nothing but scorn, because to him your unrequited singing means you are a wimp, a weakling sans self-respect... To go on singing like that is disgraceful.

I could say: We've been there; 50 and 60 years ago, when we had a

Zionist Socialist political party that sang endless love songs to the Soviet Union and world Communism - Hebrew words set to heart-rending Russian melodies. Its members begged for reciprocal love; We too are realizing the Communist ideal, they said. We are with you, heart and soul. We defend you against all slanderers, at home and abroad.

But what they reaped was contempt and hostility, not love.

If I were to characterize this as the typical behavior of the Diaspora Jew, I would be insulting many generations of proud Jews who remained loyal to their faith. They did not toady to their foes, only kept their distance from them - at least till the Emancipation in Germany. When that happened, things changed, and we started seeing this groveling and self-deprecation.

But here? Now?

Living as we are in our own sovereign state, and not so weak that we must cower before those who hate us?

I hear that many of you, even now after the slaughters in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Ashkelon, have adopted the Christian tenet, "Love thine enemy" though he slay you - a tenet Christians never observed throughout the past two millennia.

If that's what you feel in your hearts - God be with you. I won't say anything against you. But don't turn it into a national slogan. It will be very difficult for us to fight, when it becomes necessary, under such a motto.

We aren't the first people in the world to conduct peace negotiations with people who were, or even still are, our enemies. It happened in South Africa between two populations fiercely antagonistic for three generations. Now it is happening between Britain and the Irish.

But the English, even the leftists, aren't singing love songs to the Irish Catholics. And Irish Catholics aren't mooning over the emerging peace with the British. The contacts are between leaders, official representatives, diplomats.

That is how it should have been here, too. Peace negotiations with enemies who have not ceased to be enemies, some, if not most of whom still dream that we will vanish off the face of this earth - such negotiations should be conducted in the driest manner possible, tight-lipped, vigilantly, by those whom the nation has mandated to do so.

Without fanfare. Without sycophantic cant. Without love songs to those who love you not.

Nowhere in the world is there anything like the one-sided excitement here about entering the imagined "Peace era." We are unique.

And as an Israeli Jew, I am offended.

Make peace, not love! Without serenades.

The writer is a leading Israeli novelist. (Translated by Moshe Kohn)



So many dishes, so much money

MARK A. HELLER

Israel may not have Charles or Diana or any other royals to fill the gossip columns, but it certainly doesn't lack for celebrities of the untitled variety.

This week, 300 glitterati sat down in the National Convention Center to a sumptuous 12-course repast, prepared by 13 of the world's greatest chefs.

"King David's Feast," which lasted seven hours, seems to have been inspired by Cecil B. DeMille. Part of the Jerusalem-3000 celebrations, it was billed as "the culinary event of the century."

Although annoying distractions like Hizbullah and Hamas kept it off the front page, the banquet did get some good coverage, including interviews with the chefs and features by breathless reporters on both TV channels.

In short, King David's Feast provided something for everyone: bread for those inside, a virtual circus for everyone else.

It's true that at \$600 a person, dinner was a bit pricey, but then the proceeds will go to the Biblical Heritage Preservation Museum - and in this country anything that is connected to Jerusalem or the Bible must be a good cause.

Besides, this sort of thing can help put Israel on yet another map: there will probably be a big spread about it in the next issue of whatever glossy journal epicures around the world read to find out who's eating what, with whom.

Of course, there are always a few puritans or party-poopers who look askance at such ostentatious displays, but they are obviously ignorant of how things actually work (or resentful that they didn't partake, and jealous of those who did).

First of all, whatever it cost to bring all those chefs over and put them up here, the cost would have been much higher if they had not contributed their ser-

VICES gratis.

Secondly, not everyone really spent \$600 for dinner.

Some of the diners got in free, presumably in return for their services to the Jewish people.

And the new Israel, with its cul-

We all deserve a good meal now and then. But wasn't King David's Feast a little too much post-Zionist normality?

And some of the others will take a charitable deduction on their tax return, meaning that someone else is picking up about half the cost of their meal.

THIS PUTS things in proper proportion. Three hundred dollars is not a lot for such an extravaganza of haute cuisine, and everybody deserves a good meal now and then, whether it's in Beverly Hills, New York, London or Jerusalem.

Still, this sort of gastronomic hedonism may be carrying post-Zionist normality a bit too far.

Not that we should be nostal-

this banquet would not have made a dent in these problems, and no one can expect the diners to impoverish themselves in a futile effort to meet Israel's social needs.

After a little less flagrant self-indulgence might be appropriate. And it is certainly reasonable to expect more sensitivity and a different cultural message from the powers-that-be.

After all, Israeli taxpayers are included in the "someone else" who helped subsidize this charitable event.

And even if they agree that the tribute to King David is value for money, and are content to bask in the reflected glow of those who came to dinner, there are taxpayers elsewhere who might take exception to the spectacle of so many people spending so much money on so many delicacies.

In a country which still gets \$3 billion a year in foreign assistance, King David's Feast leaves a bad taste in the mouth.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.



hewing

voters

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Shlomo Nach Ma Nishtana - "Ma Nishtana?"

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French police hold cult members on suicide pact fears

GRENOBLE, France (Reuters) Police fearing a fifth collective suicide rounded up more than 30 members of the Order of the Solar Temple doomsday sect across France this week, investigators said yesterday. The Interior Ministry said police had detained over 30 disciples since Tuesday after three months of surveillance based on a register of the cult's 576 members. French media said an unspecified number had been released by yesterday afternoon. Sixteen sun worshippers, including several children, died in a remote French Alpine forest clearing in December, in the sect's fourth suicide-cum-murder. Justice sources said the operation, involving some 200 police officers and ordered by Judge Luc Fontaine in the Alpine city of Grenoble, aimed to prevent a repeat massacre and focused near Paris, Lyon, Bordeaux, Montpellier and in the Alps. Police had asked several school

heads to warn them if any pupils failed to turn up for suspicious reasons. Investigators feared disciples could stage a collective suicide at the new moon on March 19 or to mark the anniversary of the burning at the stake in 1314 of Jacques de Molay, last grand master of the Knights Templar, a medieval order by which Solar Temple cult is partly inspired. The register, complete with individual measurements, appeared to have been used by a tailor who made the robes disciples wore in rituals fusing mysticism and paranoid delirium and borrowing freely from Roman Catholicism and freemasonry. Prosecutors described the December deaths as a mix of murder and suicide in a macabre ritual in which most of the victims, including three young children, were given drugs and had plastic bags pulled over their heads before being shot.

Tensions rise as US carrier moves toward Taiwan

TAIPEI (Reuters) - Superpower tensions escalated yesterday as the United States prepared to assemble its biggest armada in Asia since the Vietnam War in a show of support for Taiwan in its war of nerves against China. The US move was matched by Beijing, which lashed out angrily at Washington for a Congressional motion to defend Taiwan in case of attack by China. Pro-China newspapers in Hong Kong warned of a "sea of fire" if the United States tried to make trouble in Chinese waters. A US naval battle group led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz, its deck packed with warplanes, passed through the crowded sea lanes between Singapore and Indonesia and headed north into the South China Sea for a link-up with the carrier group headed by the USS Independence off Taiwan. The US naval movements came in response to the most tense relations between China and Taiwan for decades. Tomorrow, Taiwan holds its first presidential elections, which China is attempting to influence with military exercises and missile tests in the Taiwan Strait between Taiwan and the mainland. Beijing, which has regarded Taiwan as a rebel province since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949, has said the elections could lead to the proclamation of independence by Taipei, which it has said it cannot accept. The war games, which will straddle Taiwan's elections, were preceded by live-fire maneuvers in the south of the Taiwan Strait and missile tests perilously close to two Taiwan ports. The US fleet, expected to assemble off Taiwan tomorrow or Sunday, will include the two carriers, three nuclear-powered sub-

marines, one guided missile cruiser, four destroyers and two frigates in addition to fuel and ammunition ships. The carriers have on board

The United States has not said whether it will send a carrier through the international waters of the Taiwan Strait. But Defense Secretary William



An election worker in Taipei carries a box containing 10,000 ballot papers for tomorrow's first-ever direct presidential elections. 1.8 million people are expected to vote in the city. (Reuters)

Britain sets N. Ireland vote for May 30

LONDON (Reuters) Prime Minister John Major set May 30 as the date for elections leading to all-party peace talks in Northern Ireland, but his plan immediately drew fire from all sides in the province. In a statement yesterday to parliament, Major was the first to admit that the complicated electoral blueprint was a compromise that was not ideal. The proposal, designed to meet the conflicting demands of rival Irish nationalist and pro-British Unionist parties, was variously described by members of parliament as a "Rubik cube," "loony" and "a dog's breakfast."

But Major defended it as fair and balanced, and said no threats to boycott the poll and that he would have an excuse to carry out what he said was the best chance in a generation to bring lasting peace to British-ruled Northern Ireland. Voters will choose 110 members of a forum from which negotiators will be drawn for peace talks starting on June 10. Each of Northern Ireland's 10 constituencies will elect five members of the forum on a proportional representation system based on a party list, a method that has not been used before for public elections in Britain.

Sarajevo suburb anxious over its final boundary

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Residents of a tense Sarajevo neighborhood waited anxiously yesterday for word from Bosnian officials meeting to decide the final boundary between Serb and Moslem-Croat territory in their area. Talks were held as rebel Serbs in an area of eastern Croatia being returned to Zagreb's rule mobbed the US ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, and stoned her motorcade. A dividing line agreed at the Dayton peace conference last November runs through portions of the former Olympic village of Dobrinja near Sarajevo's airport, bisecting some apartment blocks and possibly even some of the apartments. Four men were wounded when they triggered a mine yesterday along the former front line in the disputed area but it was not immediately clear if the incident had anything to do with rising tensions in the area. UN police had said that a car exploded on the Serb side of the line in Dobrinja on Tuesday morning, killing its occupant. The cause of the explosion was unknown but it came amidst reports of gunfire in the same area on the same day. Both the unarmed UN police and NATO stepped up their presence in the disputed parts of Dobrinja in an effort to ensure that residents remained calm and peaceful. "Because of rising tensions and the increased possibility of violence there (in Dobrinja), we now have 48 monitors in the area, together with (NATO), UN police spokesman Alexander Ivanko told reporters in Sarajevo yesterday.

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DAVID E. GOLDBERG
has passed away.
The funeral will take place today, Friday, March 22, at 10 a.m. at Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, Jaffa Shauf, Jerusalem.
Judith, Danny and Nomi Goldberg and families

In deep sorrow we mourn the passing of
ANNA LEVINE
of Flatbush, N.Y.
The funeral will take place today, Friday, March 22, at 3 p.m. at the Eretz Hachayim Cemetery, Beit Shemesh.
Dr. Eli Levine
Naomi Scheinerman (N.Y.)
Maquette Rubinfeld (N.Y.)
Metica Lubin (Petah Tikva)

The unveiling of the tombstone for our dear
Rabbi Dr. CHAIM PEARL
will take place on Thursday, March 28, 1996, at 11 a.m. at the Eretz Hachayim Cemetery, Beit Shemesh.
The Family

SOPHIE WOLF
Fondly remembered by all who loved her dearly, here in Israel.
Ivor and Roni
Children and grandchildren

Association of Nigerians in Israel
In deep pain and concern, the executive and members of the Association of Nigerians in Israel mourn for the victims of the atrocious crimes committed by heinous terrorist suicide bombers. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Israel. We pray for the speedy recovery of the injured and a STOP to this devilish war.
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The library staff expresses its deep condolences to Metica Lubin and her family on the sad loss of her
Mother

The unveiling of the tombstone of our beloved
LENNIE KAVALSKY
will take place on Friday, March 29, 1996, at 10:00 a.m., at the New Cemetery, Ra'anana
The Family

On the seventh anniversary of the passing of
MIRIAM WERTHEIMER
née Walach נ"י
we will hold a memorial service on Friday, March 29, 1996 at 12 p.m. at the Nahariya cemetery.
The Family

Britain's EU partners push for beef boycott

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Fears that mad cow disease could spread to humans pushed a growing number of Britain's European Union partners to shut the door on British beef yesterday and reinforced demands for an overall EU ban. France, Britain's main beef export market, led the way, followed by Belgium, after the British government admitted on Wednesday there could be a link between the fatal cattle brain disease, bovine spongi-

form encephalopathy (BSE), and human Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD). Germany, where five states last month unilaterally banned British beef imports, pressed for an EU ban and the Netherlands said it expected to decide on Monday. The European Commission, the EU's executive, aware of possible public panic, said it would act promptly after scientific experts had given advice.

Iraqi general defects to opposition in Jordan

AMMAN (Reuters) Jordan said yesterday that it had granted asylum to a former chief of staff of the Iraqi army who has defected to the opposition seeking to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Staff-Lieutenant General Nazir Khazraji had asked to live in Amman. "He asked to come here and his request was accepted." Opposition sources in Jordan said Khazraji had escaped through the autonomous Kurdish area of north Iraq on Tuesday and was en route to Jordan. Although Khazraji was not active in the army Iraqi sources said he had been pushed out in

1990 and diplomats said he had not had a role for several years his defection is an embarrassment for Saddam. Diplomats said Khazraji, whose defection was first announced by the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC) in London, was to be the star attraction at the opening of an opposition office in Amman. However, Iraqi opposition sources in Amman disputed the INC description of Khazraji as army chief of staff during the 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait, saying he was removed in August 1990 after being ignored in preparations for that month's invasion of Kuwait.

Farrakhan to US: I'm no foreign agent

WASHINGTON (Reuters) Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan has told the US Justice Department he is not a foreign agent and should not be forced to register as one, department officials said yesterday. They said a lawyer for the black Moslem leader sent a letter to the department denying he was a Libyan agent, and saying that requiring him to register would violate his First Amendment rights under the US Constitution. The Justice Department had warned Farrakhan that he might have to register as a foreign agent. The issue arose after his 20-nation "world friendship tour" this year to Africa and the Middle East, including visits to Libya, Iraq and Iran.

Death of popular Denver journalist weaves bizarre mystery

DENVER (Reuters) In Denver, one bizarre death has led to another, leaving the city, its local newspaper and members of a wealthy family in a state of shock. In the space of 48 hours, a popular journalist was killed in a hit-and-run accident and a member of one of the city's richest families was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound as police surrounded his house. Police theorize that Spicer Breeden, 36, took his life as a penance for killing Denver Post columnist Greg Lopez, 35, in the hit-and-run accident. They said the tragedy began Sunday night when Lopez's car was rammed by a \$36,000 BMW speeding down a local road in a drag-race with a pickup truck. Lopez was killed instantly when his car, which was in the path of the racers, was thrown three meters into the air and crashed upside down. Witnesses gave chase but the BMW hit speeds of 160 kph to get away. A paint chip left at the scene proved to be the vital clue in solving the case. A BMW dealer and his staff studied the chip from the 1995 BMW 540i Sport and determined its color was Cosmos Black. A search of records found only three cars of that make, model, year and color delivered to Colorado. Police said the BMW experts were "angels from God." The identification led authorities to Breeden, a real estate investor and great-grandson of industrial pioneer Charles Boettcher, who made his fortune selling goods to min-

ers in the early days of Colorado mining. The Boettcher name graces the concert hall in downtown Denver and a foundation bearing the family name is one of the best known philanthropic organizations in the West. Friends described Breeden as a temperamental and lonely man whose passion was driving fast. Police surrounded his house but had to wait several hours for a search warrant. When they finally entered, they found him dead, with his dog, Gambo, barking at his side. A note was found nearby. His friends, who got telephone calls from the troubled heir on Tuesday, said he was so distraught he felt compelled to take his own life. Meanwhile, staffers at the Denver Post were in shock. As a tribute, the newspaper reprinted one of Lopez' most touching columns written in 1994 after his daughter was stillborn and friends and family sent cards and flowers and said there must be a reason for such a tragedy. "You can choose to believe that or not, but you can't choose when you will believe it and when you won't," Lopez wrote.

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NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, March 22, 1996

Former commandos tackle their way to the top

While getting a start as a commando in an elite IDF unit is not a sure ticket for promotion, it certainly helps. **Arieh O'Sullivan** investigates

CHALK up another one for the guys who served in the IDF's elite commando units. The expected appointment of the bespectacled, mild-mannered Maj. Gen. Dani Yatom as the next head of the Mossad marks yet another milestone in the promotion of former commandos to top security positions. Yatom's new post comes on the heels of former frogman Ami Ayalon's appointment as head of the General Security Service.

But the appointments are also another example of the growing phenomenon of former commandos taking over the upper echelon of the IDF and the country's security forces. Former chief of staff Ehud Barak was accused of packing the general staff with ex-commandos. Most came from the General Staff Reconnaissance Unit, but other elite units were also tapped. The idea was that their excellence be used to permeate throughout all the units of the IDF.

Current army head Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak has turned it into a tradition. Former commandos represented on Shahak's general staff include Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine, head of the Northern Command, Intelligence Chief Maj. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, and Incoming OC Central Command Uzi Dayan. The deeper one looks into the IDF the more one will find the commanding roles filled by former members of elite units like the "General Staff Reconnaissance Unit - known for its anti-terror exploits - and Shayetet, the daring frogman unit. For a decade now there has been a push for commando officers to be integrated into the regular army.

Former frogmen now command tank battalions. The Nahal corps is led by former underwater commando Brig.-Gen. Ran Glinka. The last head of the Jenin brigade also previously led a commando unit. While getting a start in an elite unit is not a sure ticket for promotion, it certainly helps. But what sort of nonconventional minds is this bringing to the IDF command and, more importantly, what effect, if any, is it having on the country's mil-



Yatom: Yet another ex-commando promoted to a top security position.

(Yaniv Parkash/IDF Spokesman)

itary machine? "They are bringing with them a lot of operational experience and they are usually very good in unconventional thinking and planning an operation, especially when it comes to unconventional attacks," says Ze'ev Schiff, a senior military correspondent for Ha'aretz. "But they don't always have wide logistical experience," he says, stressing it was important to balance them with generals who rose from other branches. Still, these men bring with them a record of bravery without bravado. The commandos

tend for the most part to be a modest lot. They shy away from the microphones, cameras and spotlights. They come from a different, higher culture - one of excellence, high motivation, credibility and honest reporting. Their advantage over their contemporaries of, for example, the Golani battalion, is that when a commando finishes his mission he debriefs the chief of staff and other top generals; sometimes even the defense minister. So their names are known, whereas the military echelon is often unfamiliar with

the commanders of larger forces. "It is quite understandable that capable people from elite units who are making a career out of the military are emerging along the top rung of the echelon," said Schiff. "And if one of them makes it to a senior position, then it is only reasonable that he will try to get his friend there as well," Schiff says. Actually, another reason for the phenomenon is that the concentration of high-caliber officers in small units created a pressure cooker effect.

The army decided that the best way not to lose those passed over for internal promotion was to weave them into alternative branches. But military historian Uri Milstein told Ma'ariv recently it was unhealthy to turn elite units into greenhouses for commanders of the army in general.

"I am against this sort of group of blue blood that will be parachuted in to command other units. Not every graduate of an elite unit is suitable to command a large army. I oppose units turning into a pool of position fillers in the IDF," Milstein says. Others say the proliferation in

the IDF of those with unconventional combat experience is a result of the conflicts presently taking shape in the military leadership. Martin Van Creveld, a professor of military history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, says one important reason former commandos are coming to the fore is because the role of the army is undergoing a transformation. "I can't say that they are bringing a nonconventional fighting sense. But what is true is that [the proliferation of ex-commandos in the top brass] represents an unacknowledged admission that the IDF, like other armies in the world, is changing," Van Creveld says. "In the future, its main tasks will increasingly consist not of defending against other countries," Van Creveld said, "but in fighting against sub-conventional warfare, guerrillas and terrorists."

"In fact, you might argue that this is all the IDF has been doing since the second week of the 1982 Lebanon War. The strange thing about it is that in my experience they are very reluctant to admit it," he says. "They don't like this change in their role. It seems they are not very good at it. Over 20 years of trying to combat guerrillas in Lebanon and [many] years of trying to combat the intifada has proved it," Van Creveld says.

"When you tell them their future is to merge with the police they hate it. "What they would really like [is] for these minor irritants to go away so they can get on with the business of war."

Since the Yom Kippur War, the top slot in the army has been held exclusively by elite paratroopers.

While Mordechai Gur, Rafael Eitan, Moshe Levy and Dan Shomron were "only" regular paratrooper field commanders, Ehud Barak and Shahak both came from the General Staff Reconnaissance Unit.

"This sort of selection has given rise to frustration in the other branches," Van Creveld says. "Still, it reflects reality, albeit an unacknowledged reality. It reflects a fundamental change in order of priorities which is a shift from fighting armies to fighting guerrillas."

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US-Israel security ties: Where are they going?

WHEN President Bill Clinton took Prime Minister Shimon Peres last week on Air Force One from Sharm e-Sheikh to Israel, he gave him some bad news. "It would be premature," Clinton said, for the US to sign a full-blown defense treaty with Israel, but he is willing to have aides hammer out something less in time for Peres's visit to the US in April.

Clinton made clear that a more propitious time for a treaty would be in conjunction with an Israel-Syria peace treaty. The president's words dashed Peres's hopes for a defense treaty, which while once favored by Peres's mentor David Ben-Gurion, is now opposed by virtually the entire Israeli defense establishment, because it could deprive Israel of its freedom to respond to attack.

Furthermore, it's unlikely that the requisite two-thirds of the Senate would support a treaty by early May.

The format may have changed but the deadline remains the same. Aides in the Defense and Foreign ministries are scurrying to draft plans which they will use to draw up a strategic memorandum of understanding (MOU)

with their US counterparts before Peres's visit.

Why the rush? Officials here make it clear that Peres wants a political victory weeks before the May 29 election and he could herald an MOU as a diplomatic achievement. The US wants to help Peres in the belief that his political fortunes and the peace process are closely intertwined. Therefore, a meeting with Arab leaders and an upgraded security relationship which were supposed to be outgrowths of a Golan deal are occurring, albeit in somewhat reduced forms, even in the absence of a deal with Syria.

If the MOU is considered "old wine in a new bottle," as one person put it, then it's likely to provoke backlash in Israel against what the public would perceive as manipulative. However, if the MOU provides genuine upgrading of the bilateral security relationship, this would be a totally different story.

The same was true with the Sharm e-Sheikh anti-terrorism conference. Likud spokespeople could complain this was a transparent effort by the international community to help Peres, but even Likud officials conceded

A strategic memorandum of understanding with the US could be either a genuine advance in ties or just pre-election grandstanding, David Makovsky writes

that if there is a genuine international effort involving specific, practical plans to counter terrorism, it should be welcomed.

THEREFORE, whether the MOU is seen as a sham or a genuine uptick in the strategic relationship between the two countries will rest in the details of the document. Israel has its requests, but it has yet to sit down with officials in the State Department, the Pentagon and the White House to negotiate the terms.

Israel's requests would include items that have been rejected before: a down-link station to receive US satellite images, higher-resolution satellite images than before, and broader intelligence cooperation. Furthermore, Israel would like Clinton, should he win a second term, to support indefinitely the current level of \$1.8 billion in military aid to Israel. While it is good that the administration supports foreign aid levels, foreign aid is decided

on by Congress.

Finally, Israel would like US support to curb nuclear proliferation in the Arab world.

What does seem clear is that any MOU would definitely include elements that are already known about, such as: \$100 million in antiterrorism aid, announced by Clinton in Jerusalem last week; \$202m. over six years for phase three of the Arrow antimissile defense program; and perhaps assistance for the Nautilus laser antimissile program.

Moreover, there would be a reiteration of the US commitment to Israel's qualitative edge and a pledge for close consultations. Whether the MOU planned by Peres is new or merely a restatement of the past should not hide the fact that the security links between the two countries have become extensive. They range from periodic, top-level military talks to the Sixth Fleet's preference for docking at Haifa.

These links are a far cry from those in the early 1980s when secretary of defense Caspar Weinberger unsuccessfully tried to persuade President Ronald Reagan of zero-sum logic. He argued that even a mere agreement with Israel on medical evacuation units damaged US defense links to Arab allies in the Persian Gulf.

HOWEVER, it is important to consider where the improved ties could lead. The broader question remains: Could the post-Cold War mood, which favors curbing commitments abroad instead of expanding them, hurt the ties?

According to one school of thought, the best hope Israel has for maintaining strong security ties with the US is to make sure it remains relevant to US regional security needs. That means Israel will continue providing the assistance — intelligence or otherwise — needed to protect the Gulf so the US can maintain a

steady flow of reasonably priced oil.

This notion may have seemed impossible only five years ago when the US wanted Israel to maintain a "low profile" during the Gulf war. It feared that visible links with Israel could hurt ties to the Arab world. Therefore, Israel was never integrated into the US Central Command (CENTCOM) because this would require Arab militaries and the IDF to cooperate as part of a US command structure. Israel remains tied to the European Command.

However, on Tuesday, CENTCOM head Gen. Binford Peay told the Senate Armed Services Committee that "the time is clearly coming" for Israel to be part of CENTCOM, a revolutionary statement for someone whose predecessors felt even a mere visit to Israel would raise Arab suspicions.

Dr. Dore Gold, the Israeli academic strategist who wrote a 1988 study on the dispute between Israel and CENTCOM, said, "You have to be relevant to regional needs because the US military will not tolerate the diversion of declining military resources for political purposes.

Basing arrangements and prepositioning for US needs in the Gulf and eastern Mediterranean are a specific way we can help the US at a time of shrinking resources."

BUT THE other school of thought largely favored in Washington, says the closeness of Israel's security relationship with the US, including integration in US regional military planning, rests upon the peace process.

Samuel Lewis, former US2 ambassador to Israel and former head of the State Department's policy planning department under Clinton, said, "Only the peace process eases the contradictory pulls between the US relationship with Israel and US ties with the Arabs. If the peace process collapses and a 'foreign Israel' mentality prevails, it will weaken security ties. Being part of CENTCOM won't make a difference."

This brings the US back to the need for the peace process to continue, coupled with a deep-seated concern that a Peres defeat in May could signal its unraveling, which would have profound implications.

Into the fray, Labor's publicity supremos waste ammunition

THE WEEK THAT WAS
MICHAEL YUDELMAN

RAMBO-Barak and Super-Ramon, called in to ensure Labor's victory in the elections, became a bit confused this week as to who is the enemy.

The two latter-day political knights — both of whom aspire to be Labor's post-Peres-era prime minister — donned their campaign capes and tights and charged. Not into the massed ranks of the Likud alliance, but at each other.

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu could not have hoped for a better holiday gift — a free tableau as a backdrop to his central committee jamboree.

Were they fighting over seniority in Labor's election campaign? Or over who would come first in the party primaries?

From snippets of rumors and reports (all vehemently denied by the parties involved) the following picture emerges:

Ramon and Barak vied to head Labor's information campaign. Shimon Peres was advised by his confidant and media adviser Moshe Teomin to give Ramon the job, given his great success in Labor's 1992 election campaign.

But behind-the-scenes adviser Giora Einy told Peres this would be a big mistake and urged him to take Barak instead. Einy reminded Peres it was Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, not Ramon, who orchestrated Labor's information campaign in 1992.

Peres took Solomon's sword to the issue and put Ramon in charge of the information campaign. Barak, still a novice in politics, would head his personal campaign.

That turned out to be the start, not the finish, of the problem. Ramon, working with Teomin, demanded full authority over the whole show. Barak, in a military flanking move, hired Yariv Ben-Eliezer as a consultant.

The two protagonists next locked horns over how much media exposure Peres should be given, in the wake of the terrorist atrocities.

As much as possible, said Barak. Keep the prime minister aloof and hard to get, argued Ramon.

Ramon reportedly threatened to resign if Barak launched any information initiatives without his approval. Barak countered that Labor's campaign staff was already lagging behind Likud's with no sign of an offensive.

Next came more serious rumors of a so-called putsch against Peres following the Dizengoff Center outrage — apparently emanating from reports that Barak had demanded the defense portfolio. Barak's aides denied it and accused Ramon's camp of trying to insinuate dispute and intrigue between Barak and Peres.

However, the affair never erupted into public recrimination and all ended well. Barak and Ramon insisted they had never fought at all. Nonetheless, they held a reconciliation meeting and agreed to put aside the nonexistent tension and work together.

All this time the two were tirelessly working their primary campaigns, traveling the length and breadth of the land to press as many party member hands as possible. Ramon even found the time between trips to don a power suit-and-tie and pulverize Likud MK Benny Begin on



Barak and Ramon: Both vied to head Labor's information campaign; Begin: The Likud's lone ranger strikes again. (Kishon/Hebrew)

Channel 2's televised confrontation. Supermen indeed.

RAZZAMATAZZ
It was everything an American party convention should be. Except, that is, that it was held in Tef Aviv's industrial fairground.

Thousands of blue-and-white balloons descended from the roof, there was blaring music at full volume, triumphant handshakes, shoulder punches, hugs and kisses.

The Likud's carefully-staged central committee meeting to approve the alignment with Tsomet and Geshet was an impressive, if somewhat heavy-handed, production, conveying power and unity.

Returning renegade David Levy made a prima donna's dramatic late entrance for his on-stage reconciliation with Bibi, timed perfectly for the 8 p.m. news on both main television channels.

For this very modern reason, the whole show began an hour and a half late. And what matter if Levy and Rafal joined the Likud leaders on the stage before the vote on the union agreement had even taken place? Or that the thousands of balloons were released from the roof before the vote? Or that anyone who wanted one could get a yellow card to vote with? Did it even matter that the votes were never counted?

This is the '90s; never mind the procedures — get the pictures. Live. On prime time.

PARTY POOPER
So everything went according to plan? Not quite — what's a party without a party pooper?

Enter Benny Begin who didn't want to play and spoiled Bibi's party.

Begin has a fine reputation as the uncompromising conscience of the Likud. Thundering like Cassandra on the walls of Troy, he dared say out loud what many Likud MKs (who are being elbowed off the Knesset list by the Rafal-Levy cohorts) only mutter in their cups.

Begin poured acid sarcasm on the Levy deal in particular, calling Geshet "a great social movement which raised a new and shining social flag. First-hand, unused, with zero mileage — it is getting seven mandates and second place in the party hierarchy. What a bargain!"

Begin poured undisguised scorn on "the movement which



engraved social issues on its flag yet demands the foreign ministry for its leader. The result will be concern for the elderly in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Chechnya, improved health services in Sumatra, drugs battled in Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Patagonia."

On prying prime time, Bibi winced and cringed in the unforgiving camera's eye.

But many Likud members share Begin's scorn. Levy, said some members, would do well to take the advice of Yediot Aharonot columnist Nahum Barnea and form a Knesset list consisting entirely of his wife and children — the only ones who won't dump him the moment elections have passed.

The gods decreed Cassandra would always be right, but never believed.

Begin was also compared to the lone cowboy in High Noon, or to the boy who cried the emperor is naked. Whatever the metaphor, his isolation was clearly splendid.

Yet, unlike more timid Likudniks, Begin's place at the top of the Likud list is as assured as his reputation for integrity.

There were also more subtle straws of discontent in the gales of celebration.

By the time Bibi began his speech, not a prince of Likud was in sight. Ronni Milo already had refused Bibi's offer to host the meeting. Ehud Olmert had left the hall.

Dan Meridor and Benny Begin made themselves scarce even before the grand entrance of Levy and Rafal.

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מקדמים לאחיל

If it's Tuesday it must be Kiryat Tivon

Knesset hopefuls vying for a good spot next week hit the campaign trail - at all costs. Liat Collins reports

WHEN head of military intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee of the expected terror wave last month, just two MKs were present to hear his report: committee chairman Haggai Merom (Labor) and Ariel Sharon (Likud).

When Turkish President Suleyman Demirel addressed the House, he was ushered into the Knesset parlor for a special session. The decision was taken on the advice of the Foreign Ministry which warned the distinguished VIP might be offended if he faced an empty plenum.

And when Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal last week raised seven bills, the only other MK in the room for the vote was Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss. The next day Weiss, calling the experience "the height of surrealism," announced the Knesset would start its Pessah recess early. "We can't function without any MKs present."

Where were the elected representatives? Most were on whistle-stop primary election campaigns, driving up and down the country from party branches to women's group brunches and supper-time discussions in supporters' dining rooms. The lucky ones were at TV or radio studios.

The primary election system adopted by the two main parties has taken the MKs out of the House and into homes. MKs concerned about keeping their seats and hopefuls trying to attain them

have been trying to meet as many potential voters as possible and, of course, receive media coverage.

The words "primaries" and "ratings" slip off candidates' tongues as one concept. In one of the Knesset's more embarrassing moments, a plenum session had to be suspended until a deputy speaker could be found to run it. One deputy speaker had to rush off to an interview and her replacement was still in the radio studios for a live broadcast.

The need to cover long distances with a strict timetable was the reason most commonly cited by MKs stopped for driving offenses and forced to undergo a collective preventive driving course.

THE TERM 'primaries' was taken from the US, but there is a significant difference in content between its implementation there and here. We adopted the system without thinking about the consequences," says Tel Aviv University's Prof. Gideon Doron, who edited a recently published book called *The Electoral Revolution*. "The primary elections are an upheaval with uncertain ramifications."

"The MKs have to be on the road. It's a matter of survival. They have to reach the 300,000 party members who can vote them on to the list and there's no other way. The problem is we are an outcome-oriented society, and we keep changing the rules of the game to fit the outcome we want. There were a few initial changes



in the US when it adopted this system but since then the rules of the game have been internalized."

Doron notes the Israeli system is constantly being revised to fit a specific situation. Labor first held primary elections in 1992 to ensure that Yitzhak Rabin would lead the party rather than the less charismatic Shimon Peres. A year later, the rules were changed for the municipal elections when the party wanted to eliminate certain candidates. There were more alterations for the Histadrut elections. "I expect the rules will be different in four years," Doron says.

He is concerned that the primary election system leads to a lack of accountability. "It's impossible for each party member to know each candidate so the end result is that members vote for certain interest groups and not for the

individuals. They want to put someone in the Knesset who can help their own interests.

"The MKs and candidates have to go out there and meet the members and make their promises in order to get elected. And that is also why they are so willing to use gimmicks and almost any means of getting media attention. The name of the game is winning by any possible legal means."

For some, the need to be seen has led to some very unparliamentary images. MKs have been photographed dressed up in Native American warbonnets, dressed down in swimsuits and covered in body paint as clowns and animals. The phenomenon led public relations expert Menahem Sheizaf to advise the wannabes to forget the tricks "which can badly affect credibility. Just who votes for someone because she looks good

LIKUD CANDIDATE Rabel Kramerman, a publisher, is relying on the more conventional means to reach the party members, constant travel and the occasional radio or TV talk show.

Kramerman describes her typical pre-primary day: The early morning is spent sorting out bureaucratic procedures and paperwork in an office she rented specially for the campaign. On the particular day she spoke she was due to meet with new immigrants from the former Soviet Union in the afternoon; in the evening she was scheduled to appear in the Givatayim local branch with candidate Yitzhak Mordochai to be followed by a conference in Petah Tikva with hopefuls Michael Ratzon and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo. There was also a conference

scheduled with MK Dan Meridor in Rosh Ha'ayin in between. Her program later changed when she had the chance to appear on TV.

"Sometimes, I can't do it all. I like to speak to the people I meet. What I usually do is promise to personally appear at one place and plan to appear with other candidates elsewhere so that if I can't make it, it won't be too bad," she says.

Kramerman, a member of the Israel Broadcasting Authority executive committee, is very aware of the potential of media exposure. "I'm a great believer in the power of the press, but it's no less important to create a personal relationship with people, particularly activists in local branches. And it's something I actually enjoy."

"IT IS exhausting," says Labor MK Elie Goldschmidt. "I try to think of ways of keeping awake. On a long trip the other night, for example, I tried to name as many kibbutzim as possible, starting with the United Kibbutz Movement and onto Hashomer Hatza'ir and the Religious Kibbutz Movement." The obsession with kibbutzim is not incidental. Goldschmidt is competing as a representative of the kibbutz and moshav movements.

Goldschmidt admits it is an ego-drive that keeps the MKs on the road. "I think the nature of politics is such that the element of an ego trip is true for most politicians. It's a strange career. For most people, their work ends with a golden handshake. For us it ends in ignominy except for those who know when to quit. It's also extremely uncertain. In other fields when you reach the top you know the job is yours for life, more or less. Hospital directors or judges don't expect to be ousted from their posts, but we have to prove ourselves each time and

compete for the positions. We do it partly because politics is addictive."

It's an addiction which can be fatal. When Likud MK Ariel Weinstein died of sudden heart failure two weeks ago, his colleague Yossi Ahimeir attributed his death to the tension of the primary elections. His widow, Zvia, concurred, quoting her husband as having said: "I can't live without it. Some people are addicted to drugs. I'm addicted to the Knesset."

It is also a costly addiction. Candidates of the bigger parties have a limit of NIS 300,000 on their campaigns. The money, for those who have it, is spent on brochures, stickers, telemarketing, mailing, posters and gimmicks. (Incidentally, 10 candidates have also created Internet sites for their campaigns, in an imitation of US campaigns.)

LABOR AND Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir this week warned that the system could lead to corruption.

Her prediction echoed one of the reasons that Likud MK Moshe Nissim, a former justice and finance minister, gives for quitting politics.

"The primary system corrupts. The dangers of fawning to target sectors bothers me," he says. "Fundraising creates a real problem of a conflict of interest and the move from the central election system - which is not remembered fondly - to the primary election system is a move out of the frying pan and into the fire. It's dangerous."

While other MKs and hopefuls are struggling to gain a seat at almost any cost, Nissim says he does not regret his decision to resign. "I won't miss it. The newcomers don't know that there is an alternative. But there is a life outside the Knesset."

Ashkelon residents upbeat about peace, despite the terror

Abraham Rabinovich interviews people from the town known for its skepticism and finds a surprise

THE skeptical attitude of the people of Ashkelon towards the idea of a Middle East peace process was given dramatic expression 10 years ago when the town was hit by a suicide bombing.

The suicide bombing three weeks ago could not have been expected to soften tempers in a city where the right wing has traditionally gained twice as many votes in Knesset elections as the left; a city which Likud leaders had warned would be hit by Katyushas if Israel left the Gaza Strip.

However, despite the recent suicide bombings, random conversations with residents found them more inclined to dwell on the vision of Ashkelon as a booming gateway to Gaza than as a hostage to Katyushas.

"Peace will bring a tremendous boost to Ashkelon's economy," says Deputy Mayor Alex Kaufman.

The kippa-wearing deputy mayor has a picture of Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Kook, spiritual icon of Gush Emunim, on his wall at City Hall. But Kaufman's mindset is well to the left of the National Religious Party to which he claims fealty.

"We expect that international companies working in the strip would place their headquarters and residences in Ashkelon and Israeli companies as well. If the peace process is real, people are willing to give it a chance."

Ashkelon is an airy seaside

town, still outside the urban clasp of the Tel Aviv metropolitan region but with the look of a place that hasn't quite made up its mind what it wants to be. The South African population, that once made up the majority of the town, has become less provincial as attractive new apartment houses and shopping malls have sprung up. Ashkelon's widely separated neighborhoods are only now beginning to come together to give it more of an urban feel.

With 93,000 residents, the town is two-thirds the size of its younger and more dynamic neighbor to the north, Ashdod. The Russian heard frequently on the streets reflects a welcome influx of new immigrants who now constitute 15 percent of the population.

Despite the town's right-wing tendencies, those residents interviewed have detached themselves from the standard positions of right-wing politicians to express fresh views that reflect changed conditions on the ground. Even Yasser Arafat was portrayed by several persons as an ally against Islamic fundamentalists and not simply dismissed as a terrorist, past or present.

"I used to be Labor but I've voted for Likud in every election from 1977," said Baghdad-born Ronnie Yona, who has lived in Ashkelon 46 years.

"I'm very worried by the fundamentalists but if Peres continues with the gloves-off policy he began last week, and if Arafat



Ashkelon's main strip; random conversations with inhabitants found them more inclined to envisioning their town as a booming gateway to Gaza than as a hostage to Katyushas. (Yossi and Uzi Photos)

continues to crack down on Hamas, I will return to Labor."

It is only in the last six months, said Yona, that he has begun to put some trust in Arafat. "There's still a question mark [hanging over him] but he's lending a hand. I'm giving him a chance."

In the bakery he runs with his

elderly father, Zvi Hadar takes the broad view of historical processes as he serves up burekas. "There will always be bombs but this kind of peace is the least of possible evils. It will be a peace in which the strong rules."

"There won't be a more complete peace. There will always be fanatics. I served in the army reserves for 25 years. I expect that my son will too and his son after him."

The Palestinian Authority, says Argentinian-born Hadar, a Labor supporter, has no alternative but to suppress Hamas. "Otherwise there will be no peace process and they will be the losers. If they

don't overcome terrorism they won't have a state. We will not play with them too long."

Madame Kina, who reads fortunes from tarot cards or the lines on your forehead, is not predicting the political future but she picks up from her clientele their deep fears about the present. "They

want the peace process but they want a total, permanent closure of the territories. They don't want the Arabs coming here."

To Julia Nahum, who manages a cafe near the bus station, the situation is "so complicated, so deep" that it will take nothing less than the coming of the Messiah to resolve it.

Nahum, who says she believes in peace but also thinks that "Eretz Yisrael belongs to the Jewish people," is an NRP supporter. "I believe that there can only be a supernatural solution," she says.

The young man waving at a passing police van is uncertain at first about offering up his political views when approached on the street. It turns out he is a policeman. His shyness as a public servant soon recedes before his opinions as a private person and he offers a first name, Artzi.

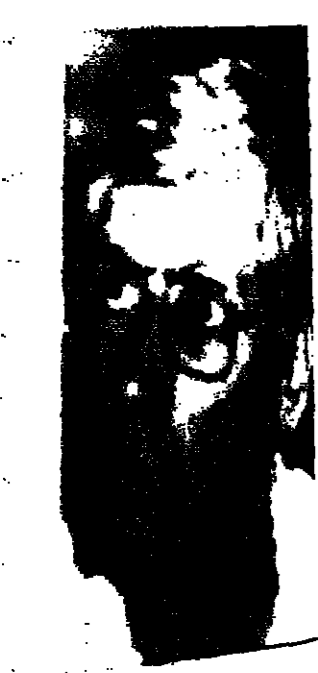
"I haven't decided how to vote but there is no alternative to the peace process. Even if it leads only to a cold peace. We have to separate ourselves from them. Just hanging onto territories and saying 'It'll be all right' doesn't lead anywhere."

Life in Ashkelon, said Artzi, had been steadily improving over the last 10 years. "Even in little things, the way people don't throw candy wrappers on the ground. There are nice new neighborhoods now. The quality of life is getting better. It's getting better all over the country."

"Ashkelon Man" - three weeks after the suicide bombings and nine weeks before the elections - still believes the peace process has a chance of working but also wants to wall himself off from the bombers. To appeal to this electorate, Labor will have to show a tough hand towards the Palestinians and Likud to talk softer about peace.

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Border Police uncertain about coming changes

The force which maintained order during the intifada faces new tasks along the seam line, Bill Hutman reports

THE Border Police - spearheading the attempt to contain intifada riots and five years later leading the way in cooperation with the Palestinian Police - nearly took another about-face in its tumultuous recent history in the wake of the Hamas terror bombings.

"We prepared ourselves for the possibility that we would have to return to Area A and increase our operations in Area B," Border Police Chief Yisrael Sadan said in a candid interview this week.

Area A is the major cities in Judea and Samaria taken over by the Palestinian Authority, and Area B is made up of villages over which the PA has administrative control. Both were the main stomping grounds of the Border Police before the Oslo 2 Accords took effect.

"It's not my job to decide

whether we would return to Area A or not," Sadan said. "That's the government's job. But I knew that we had to be prepared for every possibility that the government might consider in response to the Hamas attacks."

Sadan described the steps taken to organize the manpower needed if the government gave orders to enter areas in the hands of the Palestinian Authority.

"If such a decision is given [to return to PA-controlled areas], it will mean a major overhaul for us," Sadan said. "Today, we have excellent cooperation with the Palestinian Police. Border Policemen and Palestinian Police ride in joint patrols."

return to the PA-controlled areas seems further and further off. But in this period when the future of the peace process remains shaky, Border Police's future still remains unclear.

Last week, Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal dropped a bombshell - at least in the eyes of Police and Border Police - when he suggested the two forces be separated. "Why not have one police dealing with terror, and another with crime?" Shahal asked, at a Border Police conference.

The suggestion is controversial, because it would take out of the hands of police brass much of the responsibility - and power - they now have as the de-facto commanders of Border Police operations inside the Green Line and Jerusalem, and from the IDF, responsible for Border Police



Chief Sadan: 'There is a new reality between us and the Palestinians. We can no longer relate to them as the enemy.' (Smit, Uziely)

forces in the territories. The equation is quite simple - the Border Police now operates largely as a manpower pool for

the police and the IDF. Sadan does not make operational decisions, but only allocates his forces on instructions from police and army brass.

For all branches of the security forces, manpower equals power and money. The result is that neither the police nor the army want to give up the Border Police.

Sadan declined to comment on the issue and insisted the decision was not his, but the government's. Ministry sources said before the election nothing is expected to happen with the proposal, but that the option would likely be raised again afterwards.

WITH THE future uncertain, the Border Police commander still has to deal with today's security situation: redeployment, joint patrols and a separation line just now being established.

Border and Palestinian policemen work side by side in Ramallah, Jenin, Tulkarm, Kalkiya, Bethlehem, Jericho and Nablus patrolling roads used by settlers near those PA-controlled cities. There are also several joint patrols in Gaza.

"There is a new reality between us and the Palestinians. We can no longer relate to them as the enemy," said Sadan, sitting at his desk at Border Police headquarters in Lod.

"If we had to return to the [Palestinian] cities in Judea and Samaria, we would have to change our fighting code ... to change the way we train now," he said.

It wouldn't be the first time the Border Police had to adapt itself to changing political and security situations. It is the offshoot of the Frontier Force established by the IDF in 1951. At its inception, the unit had fewer than 100 men, many of whom were Druse, Beduin or members of other minority groups, just as today.

The force quickly expanded and, by the mid-1950s, was put in charge of patrolling border areas in the effort to prevent infiltrations. As a precursor of things to come, in the Sinai Campaign of 1956, the Border Police was responsible for keeping order in Gaza.

Eleven years later, the Border Police were sent in to keep the peace not only in Gaza, but also in Judea and Samaria. It was in the Palestinian towns and villages that the Border Police got its reputation for being brutal.

AT BORDER Police headquarters, they are quick to deny the allegations. First, Border Police brass argue, the accusations of violence against Palestinians were exaggerated. Second, they

add, the Border Police was not just in the territories - it was also involved in many other important duties, less known to the general public, including guarding the nation's air and sea ports and security-sensitive installations.

But the fact remains, the Border Police's main job was putting down unrest, particularly after the outbreak of the intifada in 1987. Border Police training concentrated on this, and the reality of the intifada years left little else.

The intifada is still in the back of the minds of Sadan and other Border Police brass. Today, however, the reality is quite different, and the Border Police is having to adapt.

Sadan marks his first anniversary as Border Police commander next week. The Oslo Accord was already signed. The mass rioting and bloody clashes between the Border Police were largely a thing of the past.

"The job I was given was to prepare the Border Police for the future," Sadan said. Sadan's experience is in training; he founded the Border Police training school at the Beit Horon base and afterwards headed the Police Academy near Netanya.

PREPARING FOR THE future, at least for the time being, means introducing new jobs and the training to fill them.

One of those new tasks is maintaining the proposed separation line, meant to prevent Palestinians from infiltrating into Israel. Sadan, who was appointed to the task by Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz after the Dizengoff bombing, was this week preparing a final draft of the separation plan.

The Border Police are to be the major force in maintaining the separation line, to run roughly along the pre-1967 border, although the IDF and General Security Service will be providing support, according to Sadan.

Sadan revealed some as yet unpublished details of the plan: The separation line is to be divided into four districts; each district will have its own headquarters; intelligence units are to be set up to work specifically on preventing infiltrations; and the Border Police's elite undercover unit will be used to patrol the 270-kilometer separation line.

"I believe in the separation plan," Sadan said. "It is the best possible solution given the present situation." And the present situation, it appears, is about the only thing of which Sadan and the Border Police can be certain.



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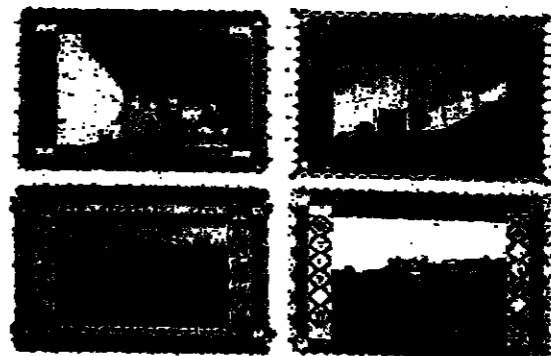
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Why I write for the 'Post'

TEDDY KOLLEK with AMOS KOLLEK

IT has been almost two years that Amos and I have been writing a bi-weekly column in this newspaper. I had a bit of an ambivalent feeling about this when we first started...

particularly importantly, foreign journalists and the diplomatic corps - have no other choice. Often what they read in the Post is their only or main source of information. The picture they receive is certainly biased...

Call it hatred

EYE ON THE MEDIA GUEST COLUMNIST ANDREA LEVIN

THE recent, unprecedented terrorism that took 61 lives and maimed hundreds topped the news briefly and disappeared, but not before exposing an array of journalistic abuses that recur in coverage of atrocities against Israelis...

detailed the ethos and functioning of the organization, but omitted any mention of the centrality of violent antisemitism as enshrined in its charter, taught to its children and proclaimed from its mosques...

doors and, in Simon's words, "scrounging for evidence of complicity with the Hamas bombing campaign." Simon then takes viewers to the scene of an Arab family moving possessions out of a house about to be sealed...

of the anger remains directed at the Israelis, not Yasser Arafat. On the Gaza waterfront, one fisherman says maybe we should have another uprising. Among the most questionable follow-up stories to the first Jerusalem bombing was CNN reporter Jerrold Kessel's visit to the hospital bedside of a Palestinian injured in the attack...

Learning from Samson to avert catastrophe

Five were created with super-human traits, and these traits were their downfall. Samson's was his strength... Sota 10a

A VIEW FROM NOV MOSHE KOHN. sibility. He rejects his father's suggestion that Heaven brought about his downfall (lines 373-378):

deported, and those engaging in any violent act will be shot on sight. Preempt Islamic terrorists' efforts to attain eternal Paradise through suicide or death in action by announcing that their corpses will be buried in pigskin, dumped into the sea or cremated.

MILTON'S Samson "was altogether mistaken," writes Louis René Beres, professor of political science at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.

AN "ALL-OUT WAR" has been declared against the Arab terrorists who have long been waging such a war against Israel. In the field, however, the declarers invest rather less than all-out thought, means and action in this war.

Max Weil of Jerusalem, who has drawn up a detailed program including these steps, feels that the government's grave error in misjudging and/or not considering Arafat's unwillingness or inability to have the people under his governance, including Hamas members, accept the Oslo accords is fully responsible for the recent terror acts here.

Our "current policy of incremental territorial concessions [which] flows from a misguided concept of the peace process - is a policy that will destroy Israel's power. A policy that eliminates strategic depth and prevents secure retaliatory forces will strongly encourage large-scale enemy aggressions against Israel."

So in order to extirpate Arab terrorism against us and those who help us, we must impose more hardship than we have been imposing on the "innocent" Arabs of Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

Seventy percent of the respondents supported terrorist attacks in the administered territories and in areas of Judea, Samaria and Gaza where Jews live. More than 84 percent opposed the measures taken by Arafat's police against the Hamas.



Choose life! SHABBAT SHALOM SHLOMO RISKIN. (shogeg) whereby, for example, a person kindles a fire on the Sabbath either because he was unaware that such an activity was forbidden, or because he was unaware that the particular day was Saturday.

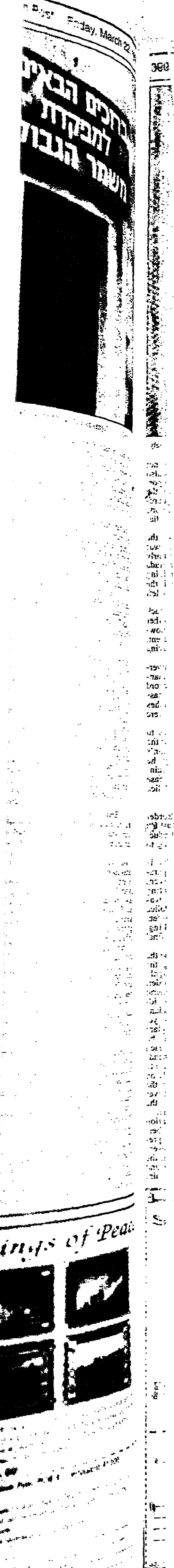
Ignorance of the law is no excuse; every person must be aware of his environment and of the possible ramifications of his every deed. Jewish law would amend Descartes to read: "I am responsible; therefore I am worthy to be."

The S'forno derives a valuable teaching from this seeming discrepancy. All other creatures were functional beings, their activities judged by the Almighty to be good. The human being alone is moral being; whether or not he chooses correctly depends entirely on him - and so God cannot provide any advance judgment.

There is a fable about a sculptor who was seeking a model for a statue which he wanted to call "Beauty-Goodness." Naturally, he was searching for a harmony of spirit and body which would make the soul's purity visible through the external form.

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The Seychelles: Sand, sea and spectacular scenery

TANIA FOGEL

THE Seychelle Islands conjure up pictures of lush tropical islands, white golden beaches, and clear turquoise water; in other words, an adman's dream. Surprisingly enough, in these days of "Been there. Done it," these small islands, nestled in the middle of the Indian Ocean, exceed all expectations of an undeveloped holiday paradise.

The best news of all is that they are less than six hours away from Israel. No skirting around forbidden airspace, it's straight there. Since starting a Tel-Aviv-Mahé route in December, Air Seychelles has had a full plane-load every week.

On a recent trip, the service on board its new 767 was excellent and the staff was very helpful and friendly, especially after I explained why they were always left with so many uneaten prawn cocktails on this particular route. They are going to investigate this matter for future flights.

Tourism, the islands' main industry, only started to develop with the opening of the international airport on Mahé in 1971. There are regular flights to some of the smaller islands, but many of them are still accessible only by boat, if at all.

Mahé is the archipelago's main island and its 27km. by 8km. make it the largest. Home to the Seychelles' capital, Victoria, it can only be described as a breathtaking, dramatic tribute to nature. As with the majority of the inner islands, it is formed of granite (as opposed to the desert-island-type outer islands) and the scenery is dramatic.

Powerful rock formations and steep slopes cascade down to calm, tranquil bays. Huge boulders long since dislodged from the mountains add extra decorative interest to the beaches, or can be seen positioned almost precariously on mountain ledges. No Hollywood



A tropical paradise awaits at the Seychelle Islands, less than six hours by air from Israel.

here is even more leisurely than on Mahé. The charming manager of our hotel on Praslin was quite perturbed as he told us how a group of Israelis had wanted to order a taxi at 11 p.m. to go out to dinner and explore the local nightlife. Everyone in Praslin is asleep by 10, he informed us.

During the day, there is much to see and do on Praslin. The amazing Vallee de Mer primeval forest covers much of the center of the island and is home to many unique plants and animals, the most famous being the very strange Coco de Mer palm tree and the rare black parrots. And the beaches at Anse Lazio and Anse Volbert are superb.

Unfortunately the roads are appalling and the suspension in the rental cars even worse! Diving and deep-sea fishing are much recommended. Many of the neighboring islands are easily visited by boat, most notably La Digue, considered by many to be the most beautiful island, and the islands of Cousin and Corriese. The nature reserve on the latter features giant tortoises.

The hotels in Praslin are much better than those on Mahé, being both newer and better designed to blend into the landscape. They range in price from basic accommodation to the world-class L'Archipel.

The food in the Seychelles is also very mixed. Almost everything is imported, mainly from South Africa, and is fairly expensive. It is best to stick to the local exotic fruits and fresh fish. Go deep-sea fishing and you catch your own dinner!

Waiting for the return flight to Tel Aviv a passenger at the airport lounge summarized his vacation, saying: "We loved it here. I think we'll come back many times with friends and family. When we visit next we'll bring some hummus and tahina to keep in the mini bar."

Move over Turkey; Israelis have discovered the Seychelles.

Getting there

THE Seychelles are located at Israel's back door. Go down the Gulf of Eilat, turn left at the Red Sea, take a right over Ethiopia, straight over Somalia, and right again when you reach the sea. In addition to Air Seychelles' weekly flights, there are plans for one of the Israeli carriers to fly there in the near future.

Accommodation varies greatly, as do prices. There are many packages available and it is worthwhile searching around for the best available deal. —T.F.

set designer could have arranged them to better effect.

Tropical vegetation grows abundantly throughout the island, forming a thick undergrowth and lush, verdant forests. When it is about to rain, low clouds hover over the high peaks of the central mountain range, shrouding them in mystery.

The rain falls between November and April in short, strong downpours which clear up instantly. But the climate is consistent throughout the year as the Seychelles are located just below the equator.

Sightseeing in Mahé is scenic rather than cultural and the views are spectacular. It is well worth hiring a car to cross the island through

the mountain passes and jungle. Traveling around the island on the coastal road, which is the main highway, can easily be done in half a day, though invariably it takes longer as it is very tempting to stop every few kilometers to enjoy a quick dip in the clear blue sea, to pick bananas or coconuts that grow

on the roadside or simply to sit on a beach and contemplate life in one of the countless bays (known locally as "ances").

THE islands were uninhabited until the 18th century. Today's primarily Catholic Seychellois are the descendants of British and

French colonialists, African slaves, Indian traders, and Arab sailors and pirates. It is not uncommon to see families in which children from the same parents are of different colors.

When small children walk barefoot, it is by choice rather than necessity. Education is compulso-

ry, and the government has established a very extensive and organized welfare system to which all citizens are entitled.

The smaller islands are the real jewels in the Seychelles' crown. A visit to the area is truly incomplete without a trip to at least one of them. Most tourists head for Praslin, La Digue, Bird Island or Ile Denis, all of them "inner" islands. The distant outer clusters such as the Farquar and Aldabra groups are closed to tourists. (A few scientists are there to study their unique ecosystems.)

Praslin, the second largest island in the Seychelles and a mere 15-minute flight away from Mahé, is well worth a visit. The pace of life

It's not too late to enjoy winter travel

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

IT'S not too late to enjoy winter sports, according to Tony Zamir of Ophir Tours, who says the dog-sledding season on Baffin Island in the Canadian Northwest Territories lasts until late May or early June.

The price of a 10-day dog-sled excursion is \$3,295, including flights from Tel Aviv, the use of a fur-lined parka, and accommodations in hotels and tents.

Even in Israel, Arka has ski packages until the end of the month. A day of skiing with round-trip flights from Tel Aviv is NIS 339, or NIS 399 with rental of equipment. Two days of skiing, including an overnight stay in a hotel or rural lodging in the area, is from NIS 503, or NIS 623 with equipment.

FOR THE annual Spring Festival in Budapest, Malev, the Hungarian national airline, is offering a special round-trip fare of \$349. The festival lasts until April 14.

GOING somewhere really dangerous? SOS Assistance, a Geneva-based company, provides a wide range of medical and legal help for businessmen, students, and other travelers who find themselves in difficulties abroad, especially in countries which are problematic because of geographical or political conditions.

The services are available to individuals or corporations on either a fee-for-service or full-coverage basis. They can range from a medical evacuation or the dispatch of a specialist physician, care of children left unattended, search procedures and, in the last resort, repatriation of mortal remains.

Coverage ranges from \$230 to \$310 a year, depending on the country of destination. In Israel, SOS Assistance is represented by the HomeShaper Group, tel. (03) 930-0333.

FOLLOWING a successful visit to Yemen by a group of Israelis holding foreign passports, organized by Neot Hakikar-Geographical Tours, the company is organizing another such nine-day tour in April for \$2,060.

Similar tours, also for those holding a foreign passport, are being offered by Sky Hakikar. The price of the nine-day tour is \$1,895.

A VISIT Spain Pass, with discount vouchers for flights in Spain or Spainair, is available through Laufer, the Spanish company's general sales agent. Prices range from \$195 for three vouchers

to \$341 for six vouchers, with higher prices for vouchers including the Canary Islands.

FOR THE ultimate in a cheap vacation, the Allalouf shipping company is offering a seven-night package to Cyprus for \$166. Two nights are spent in deck-class seats on board a car ferry and five nights are at an apartment hotel in the resort village of Aya Napa. The same package, including a jeep for five days with unlimited mileage, comes to \$280.

BEN-GURION Airport has instituted a shuttle service from the terminal to the long-term parking lot. For information about the shuttle and other parking and transport facilities at the airport, tel. (03) 973-1140.



During the summer months, Aqua Bella has become popular as a site for weddings.

Aqua Bella: A treat in the off-season

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

THESE days, when many of Israel's nature spots are filled to over-capacity, the best time to visit a site may be off-season.

Take, for example, Aqua Bella, the spring near Jerusalem. On summer weekends this national park is usually jammed with hundreds of families. There is hardly enough room in the parking lot and a haze of barbecue smoke envelops the area.

This was not always the case. Only a few decades ago, Aqua Bella (in Hebrew, in the Hebrew of a relatively small number of nature lovers. It was a wild and overgrown spring with raspberry bushes along its banks. Then it was cleaned up and developed, with broad lawns flanking the spring, which was disciplined into a series of concrete pools and channels.

The developers also cleared the ruins of the Crusaders, making much of it more accessible and blocking off those areas which were dangerous. It was a project which made Aqua Bella less attractive to some visitors and more so for others.

These days, during the summer months, Aqua Bella has even become popular as a site for weddings, in line with the National Parks Authority's present policy of utilizing the commercial potential of the sites.

On the other hand, I recall with great fondness a Pessah day a few years ago when we decided to have a picnic at Aqua Bella. There was a chill in the air and the park was virtually deserted.

However, even a short distance from Jerusalem, it was far more balmy than in the capital. We were able to enjoy some of the leftovers from our Seder meal, followed by a long walk along the spring. It was almost like experiencing some of the wild beauty which the site had had in former times.

To reach Aqua Bella, take the Ma'aleh Hahamisha turn-off from the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway and follow the signs. The park is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., (5 p.m. from April 1). Admission is NIS 10 for adults, NIS 5 for children.

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Price: US\$ 495 per person in double room, includes 3 nights in 4 and 5 star hotels, half board, 3 breakfasts, 5 evening meals, all sightseeing, entrance fees, local English-speaking guide, Israeli English-speaking escort, transportation from and return to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.
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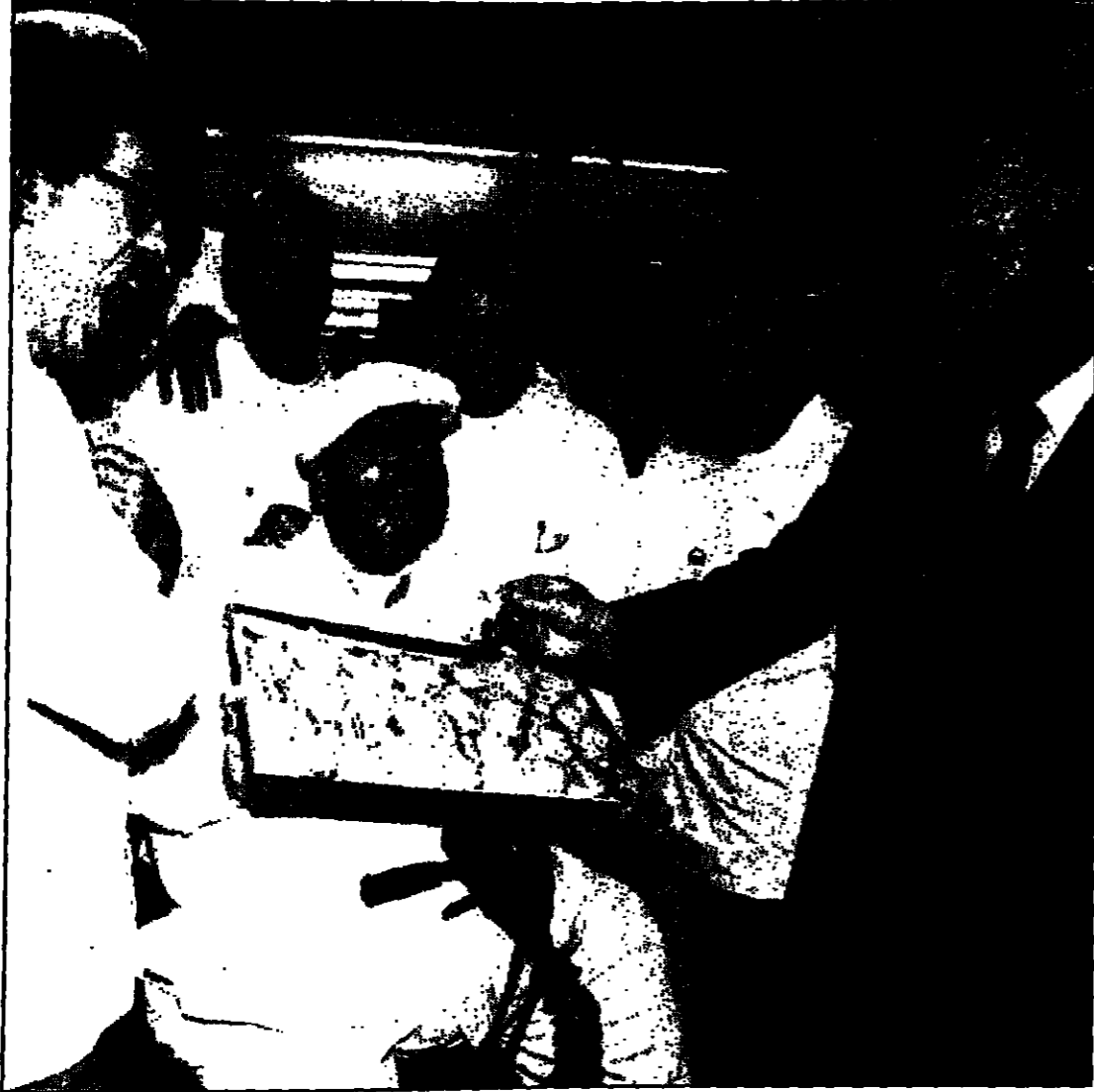
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WE ARE MOVING

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Under the weather



Kashrut supervisor Rabbi Ya'acov Fink eyes a sample of King David's Feast. (Isaac Harari)

Plenty of food for plenty of money

LEGEND has it that the only things which start on time in Jerusalem are Shabbat and funerals. Thus, it should have come as no surprise that the widely touted and much-hyped 12-course \$600 per head King David's Feast, one of the highlights of the city's trillennial celebrations, should start late.

The invitation at the Jerusalem Convention Center specified formal dress, but formality - what there was of it - was barely evident.

Some of the women were decked out in cocktail gowns, but few of the men wore dark suits, let alone tuxedos. The attire of several guests could at best be described as casual.

Walters began offering appetizers prepared by newly elected president of the World Association of Cooks Societies - Bill Gallagher of Restaurant of the Nation, Johannesburg. He was assisted by Avi Aminof, one of the chefs at the Sheraton Plaza Jerusalem.

Most of the food writers were happy just to eat and make appreciative noises, but one rather abrasive American fingered the canapes, pulling apart the layers like so many banana peels, exclaiming shrilly to her companion at each revelation - and leaving the mess on the tray.

The approximately 300 guests waited in eager anticipation to be served, but there were still formalities to be overcome. There was the appropriate display of appreciation to all the chefs, both visitors and locals - together with Shalom Kadosh, executive chef of the Sheraton Plaza, who had spent

GREER FAY CASHMAN

long months coordinating the kitchen preparations.

They were given a standing ovation as they trooped in dressed in their spotless white uniforms to receive awards from Jerusalem Mayor Ehad Olmert in recognition of their donating their services to the capital's Ein Yael Living Museum.

Finally, the wine and food began to arrive, served by white-gloved waiters and waitresses. Most of my table companions were from the Golan Heights Winery, and it was an education to see how they treated their own products.

First they sniffed the bouquet; then they gently swished the wine around in the glass, and then they swilled it around in their mouths before swallowing - almost every time they took a sip.

Wine-maker Victor Schoenfeld was mildly upset that the wine had been over-chilled, and politely made the point to the sommelier. He was also a little disturbed that the red Merlot Yarden 1990, which was intended to accompany the quail and the roast duckling, arrived with the stripped bass in olives, sesame and spring vegetables.

Atmospherically, there was something lacking.

True, the tablecloths were damask and there was a gleaming six-pronged silver candelabrum on each table, but there was no room for the quantity of cutlery required for such an extensive gastronomic experience. At most, there were

four pieces of cutlery by each plate - and the waiters kept on replenishing with each new course.

Adam Montefiore, Golan's export and marketing manager, had expected something by way of a Tudor banquet as portrayed in British films.

But perhaps the pomp was missing, because someone may have remembered David was a mere shepherd boy before he became a king.

A reed-thin woman at our table toyed with her food and ate practically nothing. Was her \$600 wasted? Not at all. Her husband managed 24 courses instead of 12. But it was she who conducted the table poll to determine the most popular dish.

The connoisseurs voted for roasted quail stuffed with foie gras and mushrooms in essence of quail and confit of garlic, the creation of Chef Jean Louis Palladin of Restaurant Jean Louis, Washington, DC.

But those with less pretensions to refinement chose other dishes. Since we hadn't kept score as we went along, and our palates had been adjusting to new taste sensations throughout, the poll was less than fair.

Four hours flew by from the first course to the coffee and petits fours. "So good!" exclaimed the cabbie who drove me home. "My family could eat for a whole month on that. And they think that if they use a fancy-shmancy name like risotto that it's any different from ordinary, plain rice? I bet you that nothing there could compare to my mother's kubbah."

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

WISECRACKING weatherman Danny Roup was much more cautious than usual this week when making his forecasts on Channel 2. The reason: Roup is being sued by a Haifa viewer, who caught the flu, she claimed, when she dressed too lightly after hearing Roup's assurances of rising temperatures. As it turned out, he was off the mark, and the weather was decidedly cool.

CONGRATULATORY messages have been showering into the home and office of Zvi Mazel this week, following a *Yedioth Aharanot* report that he is to be Israel's next ambassador to Egypt. The present incumbent, David Sultan, will make a brief stop at home soon after Israel Independence Day before traveling on to Canada, where he will take up his next posting.

For Mazel, who as a member of the staff of Israel's first ambassador to Egypt, Elisha Ben-Elissar, was the first Israeli to bring his family to live in the Land of the Nile, the prospect of renewing friendships made in the early years of peace between Israel and Egypt is most pleasing.

Judging by the number of cables and phone calls from Egypt, the feeling is mutual. The offers to throw "welcome back" parties are numerous, but Mazel is unable to give anyone a date, because the Foreign Ministry has not yet advised him when to pack his bags.

AMONG THE many mayors from around the world who assembled in Jerusalem this week as guests of Ehad Olmert was Sydney mayor Frank Sartor, who came to Israel via Atlanta. Sartor, whose city will host the first Olympic Games of the second Christian millennium, stopped by in Atlanta to get some pointers on what goes into organizing such a huge, multi-faceted event.

IT WAS quite a surprise to members of the religious settlement of Betar when Victor Kiritzinski, mayor of Kiev, demonstrated an understanding of Gemara. Kiritzinski, accompanied by Rabbi Ya'acov Bleich, chief rabbi of Ukraine, was the guest of Betar council chairman Moshe Leffovitz. The mayor's knowledge came to light when Leffovitz took him into a classroom. Before leaving, he signed a twin-city agreement between Kiev and Betar.

NATIVE ENGLISH speakers jockeying for position in next week's primaries include Likud candidate Moshe Pavlov, who last November was catapulted to stardom by both Israel Television and Channel 2. A computer programmer, Pavlov, 41, who was born in Marshalltown, Iowa, came to Israel 25 years ago, but more recently became a political activist as a result of the Oslo accord.

A frequent participant in antigovernment demonstrations, Pavlov came to the attention of the foreign media after the assassination of former prime minister



Architect David Knafo (from left), Haifa Maritime Museum director-general Nissim Tal, Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna, Treasury representative Avshalom Zomer, Peru's Vice President Cesar Paredes, two members of the Indio Trio and Peruvian Ambassador Jaime Stiglitz attend the opening of the museum's new exhibit featuring rare pottery pieces from Peru; Weatherman Danny Roup (below) has more to watch out for than just rain - he's being sued by a viewer for incorrectly predicting the weather. (Isaac Harari)



Yitzhak Rabin, when he began distributing articles suggesting that there was a cover-up. It was more than a coincidence, he claims, that the same footage of his activities was shown on the same night on both television channels. It was a deliberate attempt by an outside source to discredit him, he believes.

"There's a greater story behind the assassination than anyone knows. There's a conspiracy that goes well beyond Yigal Amir and the truth will eventually come out," Pavlov asserts.

LABOR CANDIDATE Ofer Pines decided that it was not enough to publicize information about himself. It was no less important to get endorsements. And he did just that. The partial list includes Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg, Rabbi Binyamin Bar-Zohar, spiritual head of the Mitzvah Yehuda

Religious Council, Jewish National Fund, chairman Moshe Rada, Hebrew University Professor Ehad Sprinzak, Jonathan Harpaz, director of the Jerusalem Hotel Association and many others who ride the celebrity circuit. It's not always who you are, but whom you know that counts.

THE PAST two weeks in Israel have definitely been a Cooks' Tour, both for chefs and diners. Following the World Association of Cooks Societies' Conference in Jerusalem earlier this month, 13 of the world's great exponents of the gastronomic arts stayed on to produce the sumptuous 12-course King David's Feast in conjunction with the city's trillennial.

On the night prior to the feast, they were honored at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel, at a late-night banquet which started well after 9 p.m. when they could be prized

away from the kitchen. Newly installed general manager Clement Hassid, who presented each of the chefs with a silver-and-gold relief of the walls of Jerusalem, said that it was strange for him to get up and introduce people and an event in which he had played no part. His predecessor, Raphy Weiner, who'd had a lot to do with the culinary coup, was also on hand - but this time as an honored guest.

Sheraton Plaza Executive Chef Shalom Kadosh, chief coordinator of King David's Feast, described it as the pinnacle of his career. Asked what he's going to do next, Kadosh replied: "spend more time with my kids."

THERE WAS no sleep for Italian chef Gualtiero Marchesi on the night of the feast. He had a 5 a.m. plane to catch, and the feast itself went on till the wee small hours. Jet lag was catching up with Johannesburg's Bill Gallagher who came to Israel via New York where he was promoting South Africa's new rainbow cuisine which includes traditional tribal dishes.

GUEST OF honor at the annual dinner of the Ezra Nashim Sarah Herzog Memorial Hospital was Renee Lauffer, who for 17 years headed the British Friends of Herzog Hospital, succeeding her mother, the late Fanny Wolfson, who was its founder and according to Lauffer, at the time "virtually its only member." Speaking of her mother, Lauffer said "she never went anywhere without her receipt book in her pocket."

AT A charity affair mostly attended by Orthodox people, one of the guests wondered why the organizers had chosen a female entertainer, whose performance might be offensive to the men in the room. At which point Sue Lerner, a volunteer for many causes, came up with an interesting halachic question: "What if it's a man who had a sex operation?" It's not the only modern miracle over which halachic sages will have to scratch their heads.

THE ATMOSPHERE at the festive opening of a new exhibit at the Haifa Maritime Museum was decidedly Latin American. On show were 85 rare pottery pieces from Lima's National Museum of Anthropology, Archeology and History and on hand were not only Peruvian entertainers, but the country's Vice President Cesar Paredes, Peruvian ambassador Jaime Stiglitz and Peru's two honorary consuls in Israel, Yoseph Maiman and Alfredo Rosenzweig, who were greeted by Museum director Nissim Tal and Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna. Paredes had a twofold reason for being in Israel. He also attended a seminar for presidents of Latin American universities.

THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND THE ARTS
The Program for Developing Scientific and Technological Infrastructures 1996

Invitation to Submit Proposals

for Strategic Research in the Areas of
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Research

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Invitation to Submit Proposals on Electro-Optic Topics:

- * Light Sources
- * Nonconventional Optics
- * Electro-Optic Devices and Sensors
- * Systems and Means of Ultrafast Optical Signal Processing and Storage

Detailed information on areas of priority, conditions applying to submission of applications, and budgetary details are available at the research authorities of the research institutes and at the Ministry of Science.

Proposals must be submitted to the Ministry of Science on the appropriate form, in 15 copies, not later than May 30, 1996.

The Ministry will appoint a professional panel for each research area announced in this notice (Micro-Electronics, Advanced Materials, Electro-Optics, Telecommunications).

To obtain information on:
+ Electro-optics and Micro-electronics - contact Joe Van Zwaren, Head of Exact Sciences, Tel. 02-847095, E-mail: JO@most.gov.il
+ Advanced Materials - contact Dr. Avraham Cohen, Supervisor of Research in the Exact Sciences, Tel. 02-825163, E-mail: Avraham@most.gov.il
+ Information and Telecommunications - Dr. Gideon Ariely, Supervisor of Computer Research, Tel. 02-847402, E-mail: Gideon@most.gov.il
Administrative and Financial Matters - contact Avi Anati, Director, Research Funds Division, Ministry of Science and The Arts, Tel. 02-847057, E-mail: Avi@most.gov.il

THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND THE ARTS
ISA - The Israel Space Agency

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We will consider infrastructure research proposals in all areas of space research having economic and commercial cost-effectiveness.

In such cases, one is to submit a pre-proposal of no more than 5 pages.

Detailed information on conditions applying to submission of applications and budgetary details, are available at the research authorities of the various research institutes, at the Ministry of Science and the Arts (MOSA), at the Israel Space Agency (ISA). Applications should be submitted to MOSA, in 15 copies on the appropriate forms by:
Period I: April 30, 1996
Period II: August 31, 1996
The deadline for submission of preliminary applications on subjects that were not pre-defined is:
July 15, 1996.

For information concerning professional matters contact:

Aby Har-Even, Director of ISA, Tel. 03-8422297; E-mail ABY@most.gov.il

For information concerning administrative and financial matters contact:

Avi Anati, Director, Research Funds Division, MOSA, Tel. 02-847057; E-mail Avi@most.gov.il

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, March 22, 1996

The last supper Agricultural output up 11% in 1995

ON THE AGENDA AMOTZ ASA-EL

IN a week when a multinational team of chefs excited the food press with its colorful, eclectic, and well-publicized concoctions, curiously labeled "King David's Feast," a real David was feasting much more substantially elsewhere.

Unlike that 14-course, \$600 meal - surely an unforgettable, but short-lived experience for those who had a taste of it - the Likud's David Levy got free tickets this week for a feast that will last four years. And while that Jerusalem supper cost us taxpayers nothing, Levy's political cowardice, pathological narcissism, and ideological hypocrisy are apt to cost us all dearly.

Levy's egotistic retreat from his publicly stated commitment to run independently did not stem from what he pompously presents as "the call of the hour," but from more prosaic realities, namely polls which said most of the public thought he should be no more than a marginal politician.

If he had guts he would have stuck to his guns, but, considering his refusal 13 years ago to become finance minister, there was no reason to expect Levy to assume real leadership in a real battle.

Back then, after Menachem Begin's resignation, a hyper-inflation-beleaguered Yitzhak Shamir offered Levy the Treasury. But Levy, apparently aware that his populist demands for "social budgets" wouldn't

suffice to face the task, instead sought the Foreign Ministry, thus shunning a golden opportunity to show leadership on a front crucial to Israel's survival.

Levy's aims were clear: diplomacy, which generates respectability and demands little responsibility - yes; the economy, which demands thorough studying and entails pitched battles with a variety of interest groups - no.

In short, Levy's agenda has been, and remains, Levy. That is also why all his talk of "social issues" petered out as soon as he was promised easy access to power and honor.

Though morally appalling, all this would have been financially harmless had Levy's idea of budget management - tax-and-spend - not improved his chances to seriously burden the macro-economy, should the Likud win the elections.

One wonders whether while wooing and coaxing his former nemesis, Likud chairman Binjamin Netanyahu paid any thought to the stark contrast between Levy's populism and the Milton-Friedmanism he himself preaches on the rare events when he discusses the economy.

Hopefully, in the aftermath of the upcoming elections, whether as an accomplice to the Likud's defeat or as a forgotten supporter in someone else's victory, this coup will have been Levy's last supper.

THE agricultural sector's output rose in 1995 by 11 percent compared with the previous year, though its trade conditions worsened, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The relatively sharp rise in farming output came after several years when output increases did not exceed 3%.

Production costs, however, increased by 8% while prices remained steady, resulting in a 7% contraction of the trade conditions. In 1994 prices increased by 9%

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Exports in the same period increased by 9%, totaling 21% of all agricultural output.

Citrus output grew by 41% while the overall produce market, including vegetables, fruit and other produce, grew by 15% last year compared to 1994. From 1993 to 1994 output in this sector increased by 1%.

Citrus output grew by 21% while prices rose by 16%. The rest of the produce market saw a 33% output increase, but a 17% drop in prices.

The amount of vegetables produced increased by 11% while prices dropped by 18%. Flower exports decreased by 10% while prices increased by 26%. Between 1993 and 1994 flower exports increased by 40% and prices dropped by 16%.

Animal products increased by 4% last year, the same rate of increase as the previous year.

Clal's fourth-quarter net profits down 12%

COMPANY RESULTS

GALIT LIPKIS BECK and RACHEL NEIMAN

167.2m., from NIS 131.5m.

Losses from investments in securities fell to NIS 9.5m. from losses of NIS 41.4m. in 1994. In the fourth quarter, profits from tradeable securities increased to NIS 1.9m. from losses of NIS 8.9m.

Total revenues from sales rose to NIS 10.62 billion from NIS 9.24b. Sales on the local market increased to NIS 6.18m. from NIS 5.36m.

Azoria Investment Development and Construction, Clal Israel's real estate arm, reported a 78% growth in net profits for 1995, to NIS 50.1 million compared with NIS 28.2m. in the corresponding period last year.

The main reason for the rise was the inclusion of Shikun U'Pituah results, which was purchased in March 1995 and contributed NIS13.8m. to annual earnings.

Net profits for the year, excluding capital gains and other expenses, increased to NIS

from NIS 10m. in the same period in 1994.

The construction sector's total income rose to NIS 685.7m. last year from NIS 610m. in 1994. Sales of buildings fell to NIS 306.94m. from NIS 325.74m., sales of construction products rose to NIS 315.48m. from NIS 231.44m. and income from rent of buildings grew to NIS 63.14m. from NIS 52.84m.

Alliance Tires net profits fell to NIS 24.45m. from NIS 30.23. in 1994. Earnings per share were NIS 1.05 from NIS 1.29.

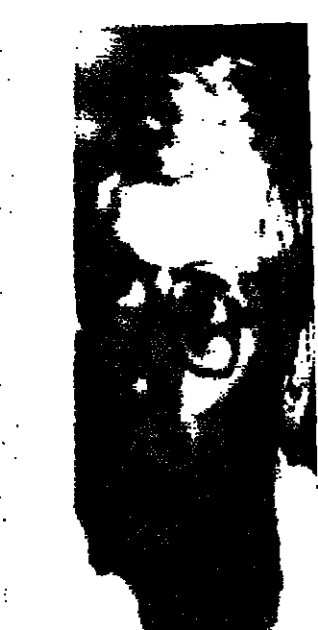
The drop was due to the increased cost of sales, NIS 305m. from NIS 253.14m. The cost of materials rose to NIS 166.74m. from NIS 135.3m.

The company is part of the Fishman Group. Alliance has two subsidiaries, in the US and Germany, and has been rated 46th out of the top 50 largest tire companies by Rubber and Plastic News. Exports accounted for 74.5% of sales in 1995.

Tefen Engineering net losses were NIS 674,000 from net gains of NIS 204,000. Revenues were NIS 38m. from NIS 22.62m.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS. Table with columns for currency, deposit rates (3, 6, 12 months), and exchange rates. Includes sub-tables for Patah foreign currency deposit rates and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates.

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ON WEDNESDAY - MONEY DAY IN THE JERUSALEM POST. Pincas Landau Interviews Alan Blinder, former deputy chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board of Governors. DON'T MISS IT!

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'Davar' - 'Telegraph' merger to result in 25% staff cut. Jerusalem Post Staff

ROUGHLY 25 percent of the combined workforce of the Davar Rishon and Telegraph dailies will be laid off after the two newspapers' imminent merger, a source close to the deal said yesterday. Telegraph, owned by NASDAQ-traded Telegraph Communications, and Davar Rishon, recently bought by the Singer-Barnea Group, announced earlier this week their intentions to merge their newspapers. Though the deal has yet to be officially sealed, the first issue of the new paper is planned to appear in May, said Telegraph CEO Avi Tomkin. The new daily, which will appear in the evenings, is expected to target much of the niche currently held by the Globes financial daily, which also appears in the evenings, but unlike the new product - which has yet to be named - is not a general newspaper.

GM, UAW strike is over. DAYTON, Ohio (Reuter) - General Motors Corp. and the United Auto Workers union reached a tentative agreement yesterday ending a 17-day-old strike that had virtually shut down the car company's North American operations.

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Market drops on rate hike concern

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



Two-Sided Index

Maof Index

SHARES fell for the week as concern that the central bank will raise interest rates to fight inflation offset reports of stronger earnings from top companies here.

The Two-Sided Index fell 1.08 percent to 195.97, while the Maof Index slipped 0.97% to 205.53. The Two-Sided fell 3.9% for the week; the Maof shed 3.8%.

The most active stock on the exchange for the fifth day was Koor, down 1% on NIS 7.5 million worth of shares traded.

Some NIS 98.4m. of shares traded across the exchange. Three issues fell for every one that rose.

Property company Azorim gave back 2% yesterday, after rising 3.25% Wednesday, when it reported fourth-quarter earnings rose 59%.

Most of the reports are at expectations," said Yaron Pitari, head of research at Ofek Securi-

ties. "The problem is with monetary policy."

Central Bank Governor Jacob Frenkel may raise interest rates on Monday, Pitari said. "Monetary policy will choke the market," he said.

Interest rates matter to investors because they determine the cost of borrowing for companies. Higher rates eat into corporate profits and often into stock prices as well.

They also are used by central banks as an economic brake, designed to head off faster inflation.

Looking at individual stocks, Pitari likes Discount Investment, the affiliate of Israel Discount Bank holds investments in companies like Delek, Superol, Clal Israel and Elron Electronic Industries Ltd.

"It's a quiet company. It doesn't make a lot of noise in the newspapers," he said. The company's shares slipped 0.25% yesterday.

FTSE up 13 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Shares finished higher, just below the 3,700 level as a firming bond market late in the day helped underpin share prices. Economic data was again the central feature and, with few surprises in the figures, shares kept to a tight 13 point range in a day of steady, uneventful trading. The FTSE 100 ended at 3,698.3, a gain of 12.9 points, after touching 3,702.3 early in the session.

PARIS - Shares ended modestly higher, buoyed by demand for a handful of blue chips, including luxury goods group LVMH whose 1995 results pleased the market. The CAC-40 index closed up 7.10 points, or 0.36 percent, at 1,976.89.

TOKYO - Shares ended higher, helped by strong blue-chips and arbitrage-linked buying. Some brokers said the Nikkei was now heading towards its next target of 21,500 as domestic institutions begin placing buy orders for the next fiscal year. The 225-share Nikkei average gained 284.93 points, to 20,727.53.

FRANKFURT - The stock market made a hesitant run up to record heights, lifted by selective interest in financial stocks. The IBIS DAX index, which measures 30 blue-chip stocks, hit an all-time high of 2,507.43 but slipped slightly to end the afternoon at 2,505.32. Earlier, the DAX in-

Dow down 28 points

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks fell yesterday as cautious investors again sold technology stocks and switched to the shares of drug companies.

At 1 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was off 28.54 points at 5,626.88.

In the broader market, however, advancing issues led declines by a narrow margin on moderate volume of 214 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Nasdaq composite index was off 0.55 of a point at 1,101.77. The American Stock Exchange index was up 0.42 at 567.69.

Some analysts said the market appeared to be pausing, as it waited for fresh leadership.

"The market is not overbought or oversold but in a neutral mode and needs an event to shake it out of its current lethargy," said Joseph Barthelemy, chief investment strategist at Fahnstock & Co.

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Source: Telephone quotes, May 1995

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Amir	10.50	+0.05	Amir	10.50	+0.05
Bank Leumi	85.00	+0.20	Bank Leumi	85.00	+0.20
Bank Hapoalim	78.00	+0.15	Bank Hapoalim	78.00	+0.15
Bank Mizrahi	65.00	+0.10	Bank Mizrahi	65.00	+0.10
Bank Sheva	45.00	+0.05	Bank Sheva	45.00	+0.05
Bank Yehudi	35.00	+0.05	Bank Yehudi	35.00	+0.05
Beit Levanon	12.00	+0.05	Beit Levanon	12.00	+0.05
Bimot	25.00	+0.05	Bimot	25.00	+0.05
Bnei Ezer	18.00	+0.05	Bnei Ezer	18.00	+0.05
Bnei Zion	15.00	+0.05	Bnei Zion	15.00	+0.05
Bright Star	10.00	+0.05	Bright Star	10.00	+0.05
Bright House	8.00	+0.05	Bright House	8.00	+0.05
Brno	15.00	+0.05	Brno	15.00	+0.05
Brno Group	12.00	+0.05	Brno Group	12.00	+0.05
Brno Telecom	10.00	+0.05	Brno Telecom	10.00	+0.05
Brno Telecom	10.00	+0.05	Brno Telecom	10.00	+0.05
Brno Telecom	10.00	+0.05	Brno Telecom	10.00	+0.05
Brno Telecom	10.00	+0.05	Brno Telecom	10.00	+0.05
Brno Telecom	10.00	+0.05	Brno Telecom	10.00	+0.05
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DJ Industrials	8597.77	+25.35
DJ Industrials	8597.77	+25.35

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FTSE 100	3698.3	+13.0
FTSE 100	3698.3	+13.0

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AMIR	10.50	+0.05

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Switzerland	104.25	+0.05
Netherlands	100.75	+0.05
Belgium	74.25	+0.05
Austria	100.25	+0.05
Spain	100.25	+0.05
Italy	100.25	+0.05
Portugal	100.25	+0.05
Greece	100.25	+0.05
Turkey	100.25	+0.05
South Africa	100.25	+0.05
Canada	100.25	+0.05
USA	100.25	+0.05

US commodities

Wheat	1.45	+0.05
Wheat	1.45	+0.05
Wheat	1.45	+0.05

London commodities

Cocoa	1950	+20
Cocoa	1950	+20
Cocoa	1950	+20

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Copper	0.45	+0.005
Copper	0.45	+0.005

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NEWS

HIZBULLAH

(Continued from Page 1) over 20 wounded. It was also seen as an indirect threat from Iran itself that it would respond if the IDF hits its bases in Lebanon, including training bases where Iranian Revolutionary guards are instructing Hizbullah terrorists.

AEC denies claims that radioactive waste is improperly stored

LIAT COLLINS

OFFICIALS at the Atomic Energy Commission yesterday rejected claims that the radioactive waste at the Negev Nuclear Research Center in Dimona is stored dangerously in old and corroded containers and is kept close to water sources in an area prone to earth tremors.

He said the barrels shown in the program are intended for the transport of radioactive waste from hospitals and research centers to the disposal site at the NNRC. Most of the material in them loses its levels of radioactivity in a short period of a few days to a few months, before damage to the containers can take place.

Meanwhile, the situation in south Lebanon, the security zone, and along the northern border remained tense yesterday amid reports of Lebanese civilians fleeing their homes north of the zone.

This followed the IDF bombardments Wednesday after the suicide attack and further shelling yesterday of suspected Hizbullah targets north of the zone, especially in the Nabatiya region.

The IDF and SLA were also reported to be continuing their search in the zone for Hizbullah collaborators. Levine revealed on Wednesday that the suicide bomber had been helped by residents of a village near Taibeh.

Levine met with heads of "confrontation line" towns and villages in the North last night to brief them on the situation in southern Lebanon. Levine asked them to be patient, and they assured him they have full confidence in the IDF.

They were not instructed to go to shelters or to take any other precautions, despite the fact that some residents were sleeping in shelters on their own without waiting to receive such instructions.

COCAINE

(Continued from Page 1) drugs and follow the suspects. Yesterday morning, narcotics squad detectives raided a villa in the Sharon area and caught the three suspects red-handed as they were opening the container. Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Gabi Last said the haul was the largest amount of cocaine to enter the country. Larger shipments have been intercepted in different countries on their way here, usually in Holland, Belgium, and Colombia.

6 coke smugglers held, Page 22

BOMBER

(Continued from Page 1) voice and went toward him and then artillery fire was directed at us. The soldiers acted very well and took up positions and those who were supposed to returned fire."

Danan said it appeared that the terrorist blew himself prematurely as a result of the reaction of the soldiers, and especially after the warning shot was fired. He noted that the suicide bomber was less than four meters from the jeep when he blew himself up.

Danan stressed that the troops had acted in accordance with regulations and had kept a safe distance. Asked if he thought he should have fired first and asked questions later, Danan said that in such a case, the terrorist might have hurled himself at the commander in an effort to kill them.

He said the barrels shown in the program are intended for the transport of radioactive waste from hospitals and research centers to the disposal site at the NNRC. Most of the material in them loses its levels of radioactivity in a short period of a few days to a few months, before damage to the containers can take place. Lederman said the waste is treated according to the most advanced technological standards and its storage is constantly monitored.

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TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies International Conference: Between Jihad and Peace: Islamist Alignments in a Changing Middle East SUNDAY, 31 MARCH 1996 09.15-10.45 Session 1: Islamism and Modernity Daniel Brumberg, Georgetown University; Tactical Modernism or Islamic Pluralism? The Means and Goals of Fundamentalist Discourse Daniel Pipes, Middle East Forum; The Western Face of Fundamentalist Islam 11.00-12.30 Session 2: Islamism in Thought and Practice Ann Elizabeth Mayer, University of Pennsylvania; The Human Rights Jihad Judith Miller, The New York Times; Islamist Leaders: Between Ideology and Pragmatism 14.30-17.00 Session 3: Islamism and Instability in Egypt and North Africa Ibrahim Karawan, International Institute for Strategic Studies, London; Islamist Political Learning: The Case of Egypt Francois Burgat, Institut de Recherches et d'Etudes sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman, CNRS; Ballot Boxes, Militaries, and Islamist Movements in the Maghreb: A Comparative Evaluation of Western and Maghrebi Policies MONDAY, 1 APRIL 1996 9.15-10.30 Session 4: Khomeini's Legacy: Iran and Lebanon David Menashri, Tel Aviv University; Iran, Islam, and the Arab-Israeli Peace Process Martin Kramer, Tel Aviv University; Hizbullah: Politics, Parliament, and Jihad 10.45-12.30 Session 5: At the Core of Peace: The Palestinians and Jordan Meir Litvak, Tel Aviv University; Hamas: The Logic of Terror Elie Reikhes, Tel Aviv University; The Islamic Movement in Israel: The Internal Debate Asher Sussler, Tel Aviv University; Jordan's Modus Vivendi with the Islamists 14.30-16.00 Session 6: The Dilemma of the West Claire Spencer, Center for Defence Studies, King's College, University of London; Europe and Political Islam: Defining Threats and Evolving Policies for Mediterranean Security Robert Satloff, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Islamism Seen from Washington 16.15-17.45 Concluding Session: Is Islamism Viable? Olivier Roy, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris; The Islamist Experience of Power Graham Fuller, RAND; Islamism in the 21st Century: Factors for Change The Conference will meet in the Malka Brender Hall of Justice, Trubowicz Building of Law, on the campus of Tel Aviv University. - The public is invited -

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